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あしたのジョー 9

KC

原作／高森朝雄
漫画／ちばてつや

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★★★★★★★★

〝ああ……苦しい〟。邂逅以来、肉と骨をきしませぶつけあい、もつれるように生きてきた力石の死に、丈はうめき、のたうつ。けんか屋無法者といわれた丈が。男の魂を詛う感動巨編第九弾！

★★★★★★★★

オリジナルデザイン／水野石文
（水野プロダクション）

講談社
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TOMORROW'S JOE

Written by Asao Takamori (Kajiwara Ikki)
Drawn by Chiba Tetsuya

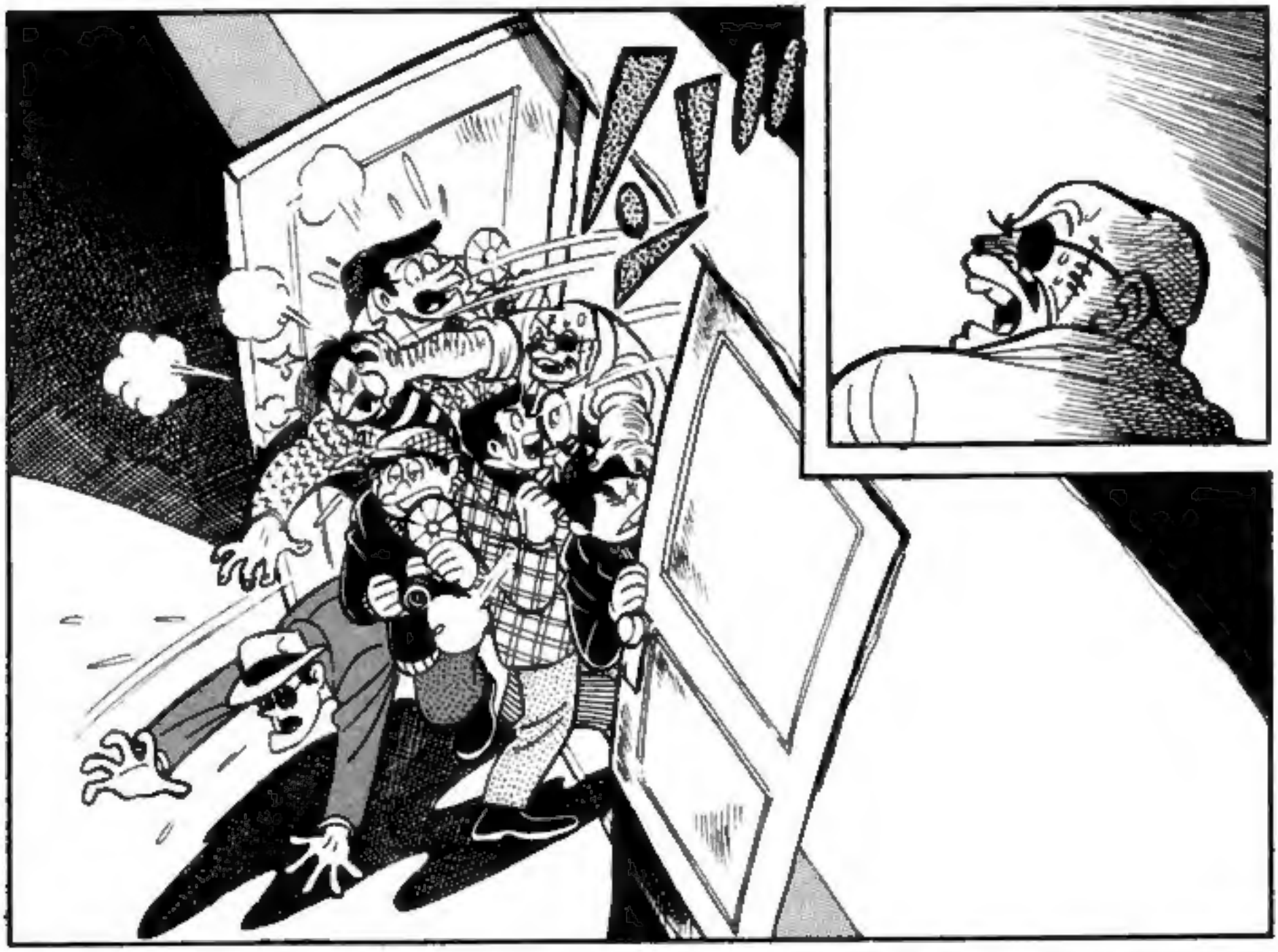
宿敵力石　徹との対決を念願に、プロボクシング界入りをした矢吹　丈は、野性の強打でたちまち〝殺し屋ジョー〟の異名をとる人気ボクサーとなった。

一方、力石　徹も、連戦連勝の無敵ぶりを発揮していたが、丈との対戦に異常な執念を燃やし、きびしい減量苦に耐えながら猛練習をつづけていた。

ついにきた対決の日――。試合は息づまる熱戦となり、たがいにダウンの応酬による死闘がつづいたが、最終回、丈は、力石のとどめの一撃をあびてKOされて無念の涙を呑んだ。

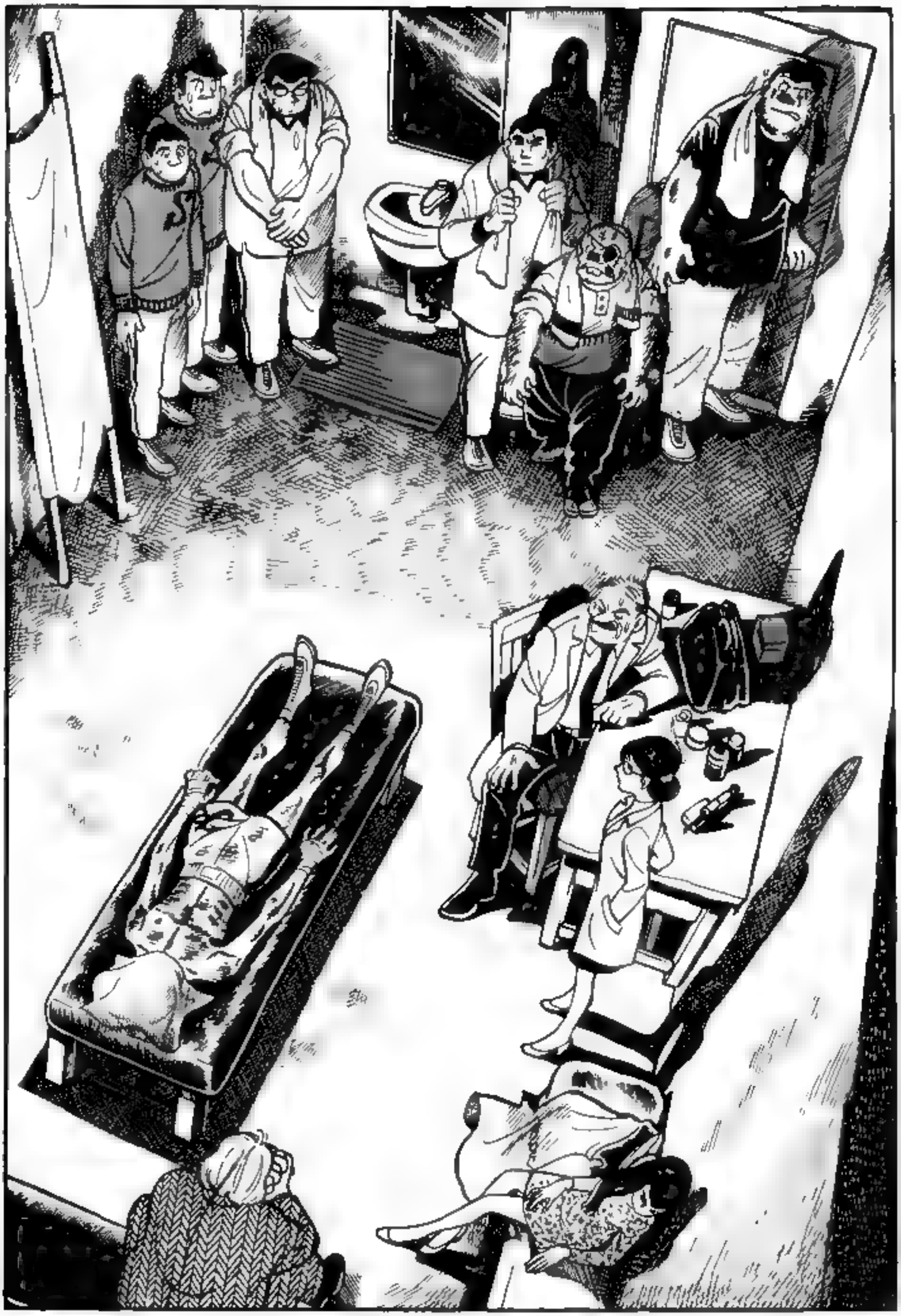
だが、勝った力石も、丈の強打と、あまりにも過酷な減量による体力の消耗がもとで、試合終了後リング上に倒れてそのまま息絶え、宿命の一戦は悲壮な幕切れとなった……。

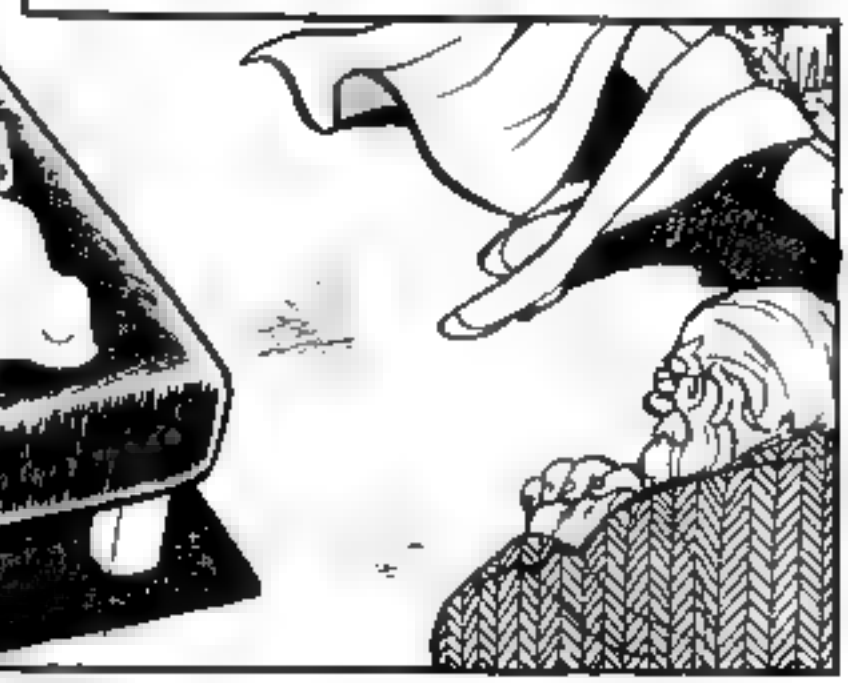
★前巻までのあらすじ★



NISHI!
O-OK...

ガチャリ
IT'S ME, TANGE!
PLEASE OPEN UP!
ガチャガチャ





WAS IT MERELY JUST THE LAST FLICKER OF HIS LIFE'S FLAME...?

THAT CHILLING INTENSITY AND DETERMINATION HE SHOWED ALL THE WAY INTO THE FINAL ROUND...

I'M AT A COMPLETE LOSS...

HOW CAN I EVEN BEGIN TO APOLOGIZE FOR THIS...

I... ... I...

WHAT HAPPENED TO RIKIISHI,

PLEASE RAISE YOUR HEAD...

IS IN NO WAY YOUR FAULT, NOR IS IT JOE'S FAULT.

THIS IS AN ACCIDENT. REMEMBER THAT.

NO ONE COULD'VE PREDICTED SUCH A TRAGEDY WOULD OCCUR.

THE TWO YOUNGSTERS SIMPLY GAVE THEIR ALL ON THE RING.

THE MATCH BETWEEN DAVEY MOORE AND SUGAR RAMOS WHICH TRAGICALLY ENDED IN MOORE'S DEATH.

THIS IS JUST LIKE..

THE IMPACT CAUSED HIS BRAIN TO HEMORRHAGE, WHICH ULTIMATELY LED TO A FATAL COMA...

IN THAT FIGHT, MOORE ALSO HIT HIS HEAD ON THE BOTTOM ROPE AFTER RECEIVING A BLOW TO HIS TEMPLE FROM RAMOS.

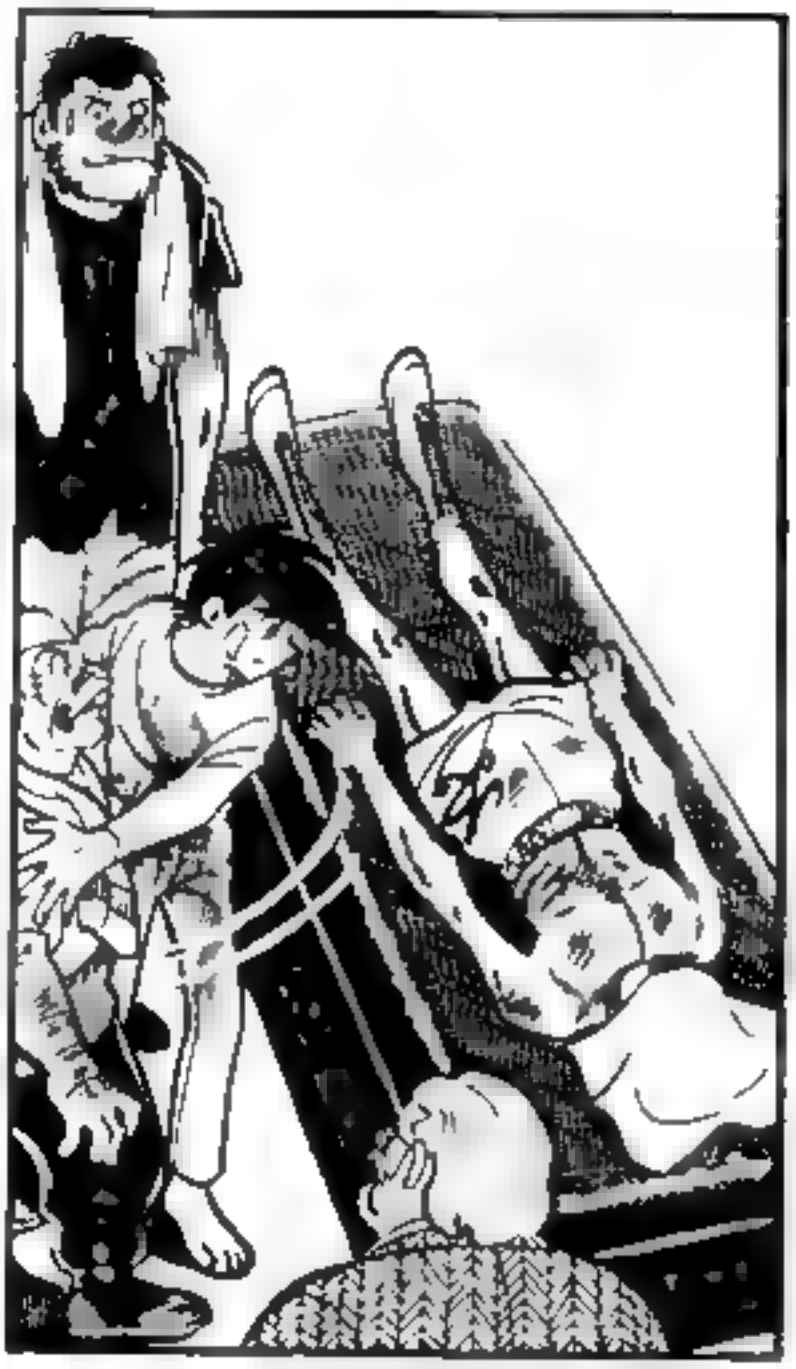
THE ONLY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MOORE'S AND RIKIISHI'S CASE IS THAT RIKIISHI BODY WAS ADDITIONALLY WEAKENED BY SEVERE WEIGHT LOSS...

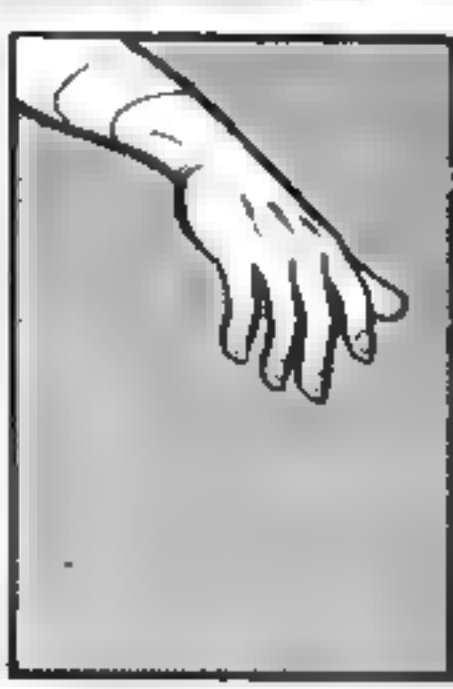
WHEREAS MOORE AT LEAST MANAGED TO HANG ON IN A COMA FOR A FEW DAYS BEFORE ULTIMATELY SUCCUMBING TO DEATH...

THAT ADDITIONAL STRESS TO RIKIISHI'S BODY EXPLAINS WHY HE PASSED AWAY SO QUICKLY,

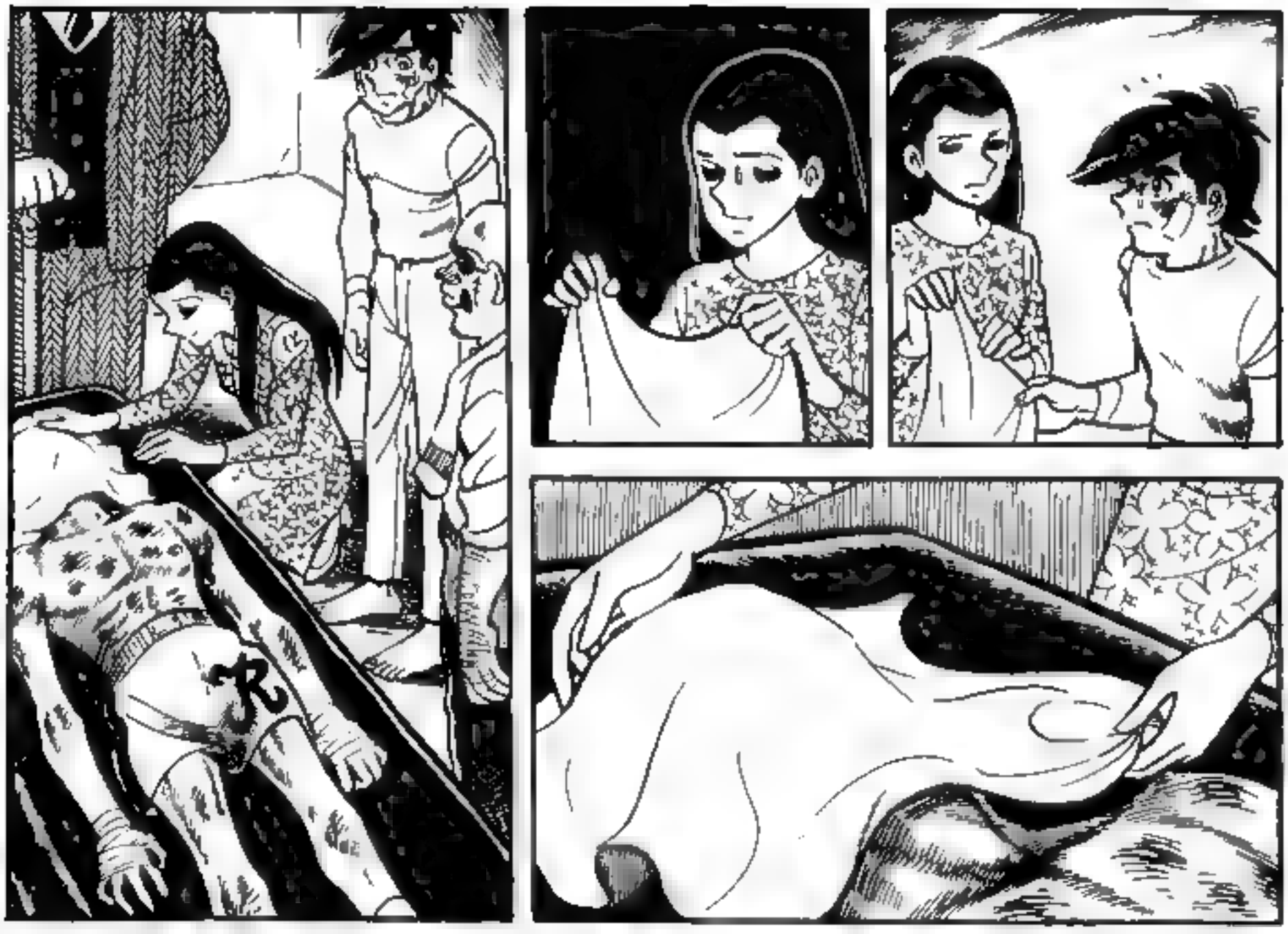
ギィ

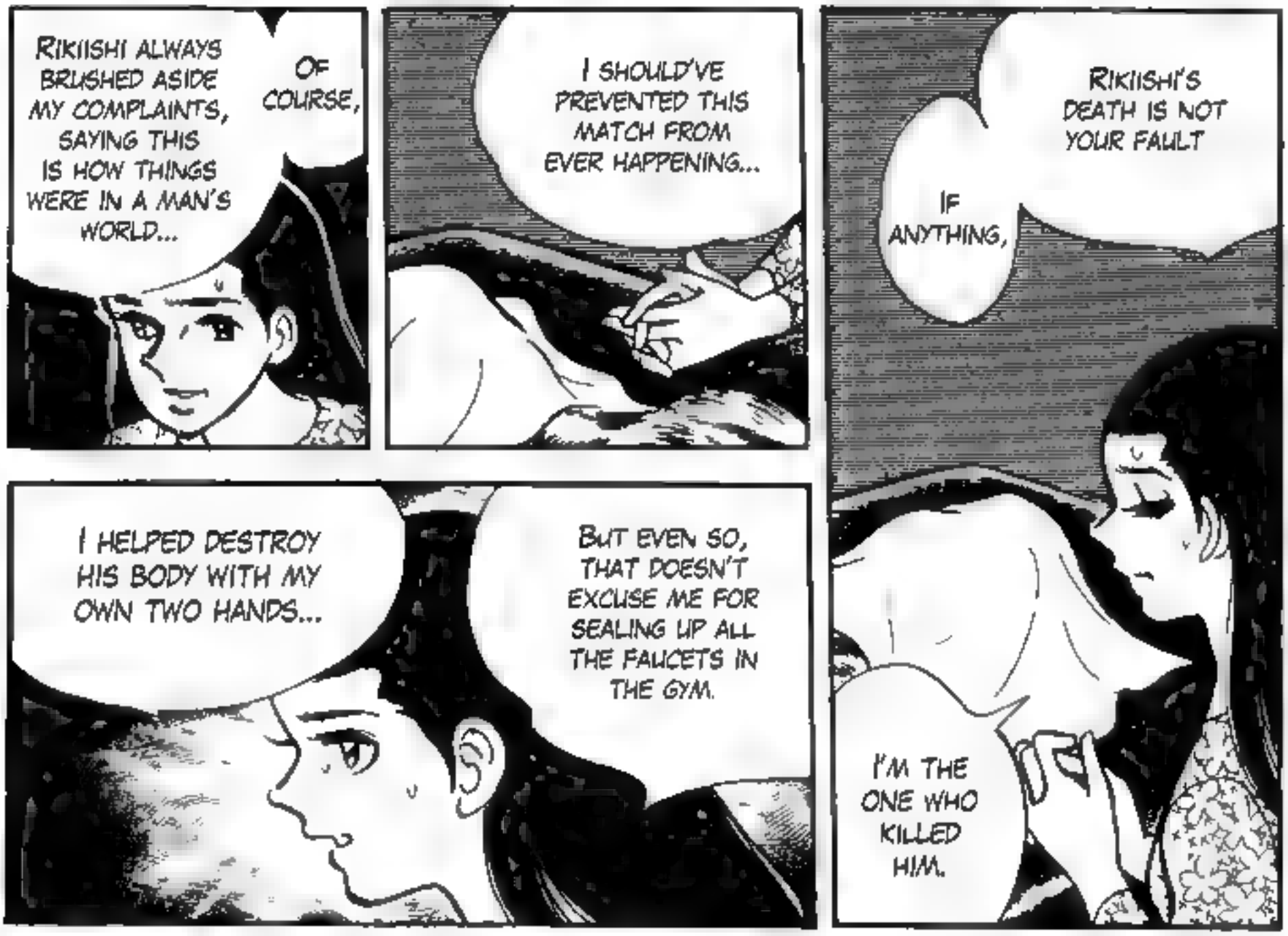
UGH...



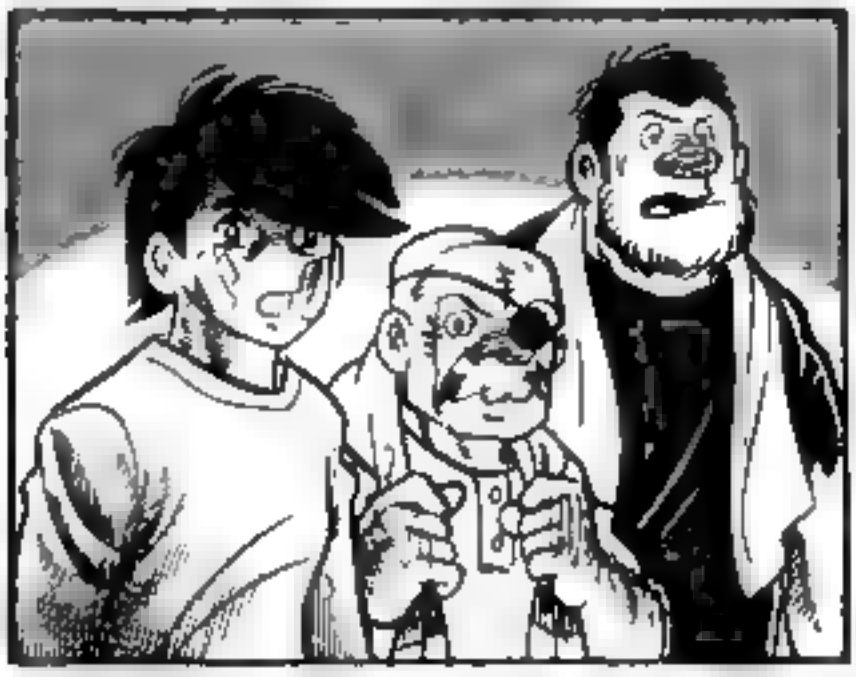


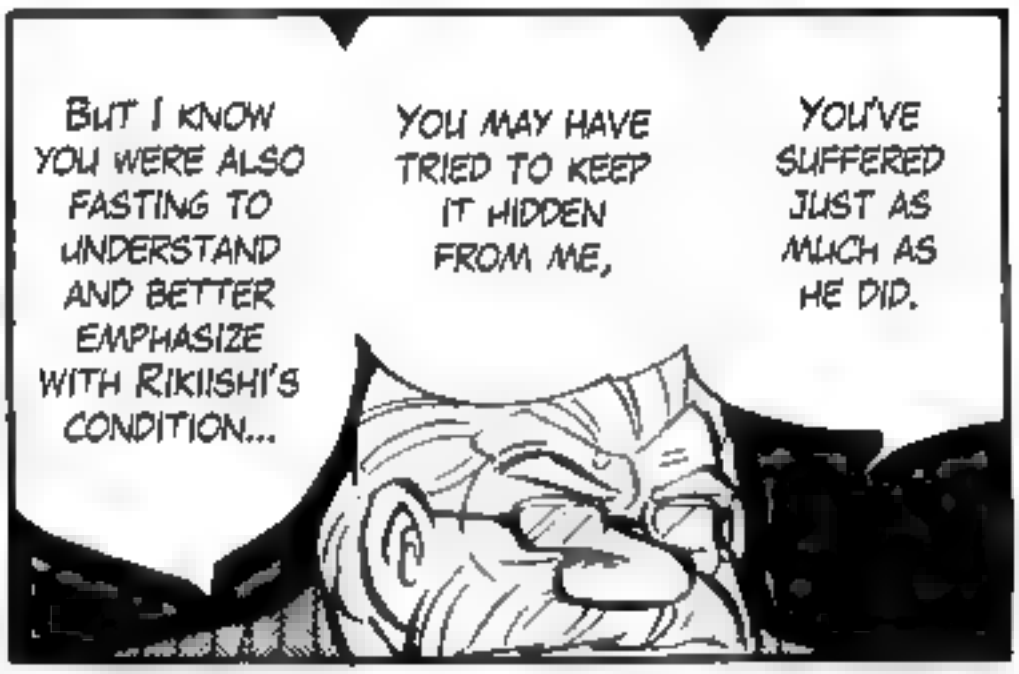
JOE...



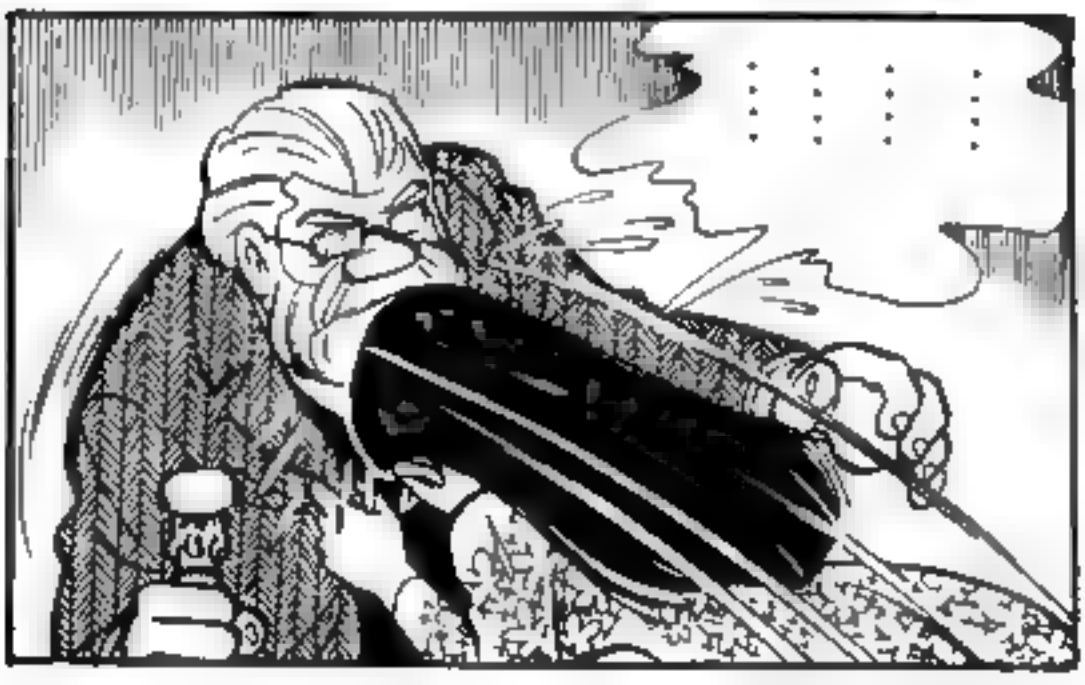

RIKIISHI ALWAYS BRUSHED ASIDE MY COMPLAINTS, SAYING THIS IS HOW THINGS WERE IN A MAN'S WORLD...
OF COURSE,
I SHOULD'VE PREVENTED THIS MATCH FROM EVER HAPPENING...
RIKIISHI'S DEATH IS NOT YOUR FAULT
IF ANYTHING,
I'M THE ONE WHO KILLED HIM.
I HELPED DESTROY HIS BODY WITH MY OWN TWO HANDS...
BUT EVEN SO, THAT DOESN'T EXCUSE ME FOR SEALING UP ALL THE FAUCETS IN THE GYM.

IF ONLY I...
HOW COULD I HAVE DONE SUCH A STUPID, CRUEL THING...
THAT'S ENOUGH, YOUKO!




BUT I KNOW YOU WERE ALSO FASTING TO UNDERSTAND AND BETTER EMPHASIZE WITH RIKIISHI'S CONDITION...
YOU MAY HAVE TRIED TO KEEP IT HIDDEN FROM ME,
YOU'VE SUFFERED JUST AS MUCH AS HE DID.

HE GAVE HIS ALL TO BEAT HIS GREATEST RIVAL AND PASSED AWAY SATISFIED.
YOU CAN TELL FROM RIKIISHI'S FACE THAT HE DIED WITHOUT REGRETS...



SO DON'T BLAME YOURSELF.
RIKIISHI WOULDN'T HAVE WANTED THAT EITHER.

TANGE, YABUKI, NISHI.

WOULD YOU MIND LEAVING...?

THE TWO OF US WISH TO BE LEFT ALONE RIGHT NOW...

JOE,

LET'S TAKE OUR LEAVE.

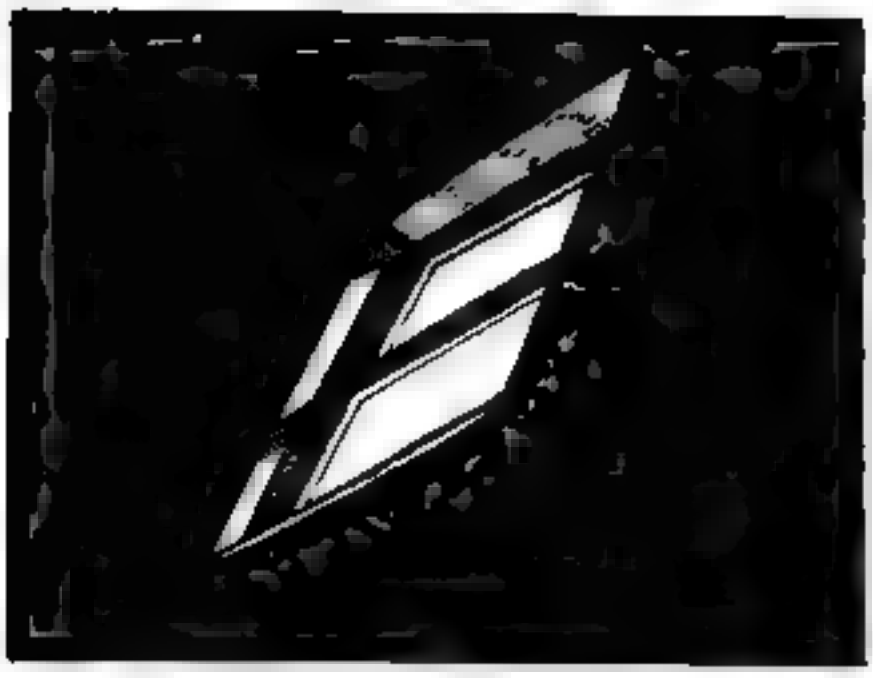
LET ME SEE..

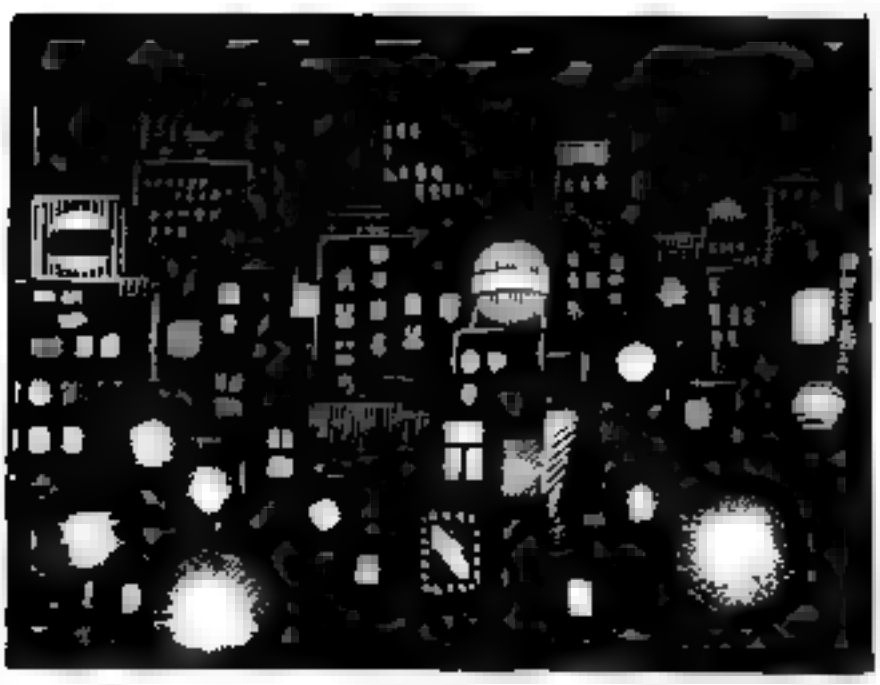
RIKIISHI'S FACE ONE MORE TIME...

JOE...!

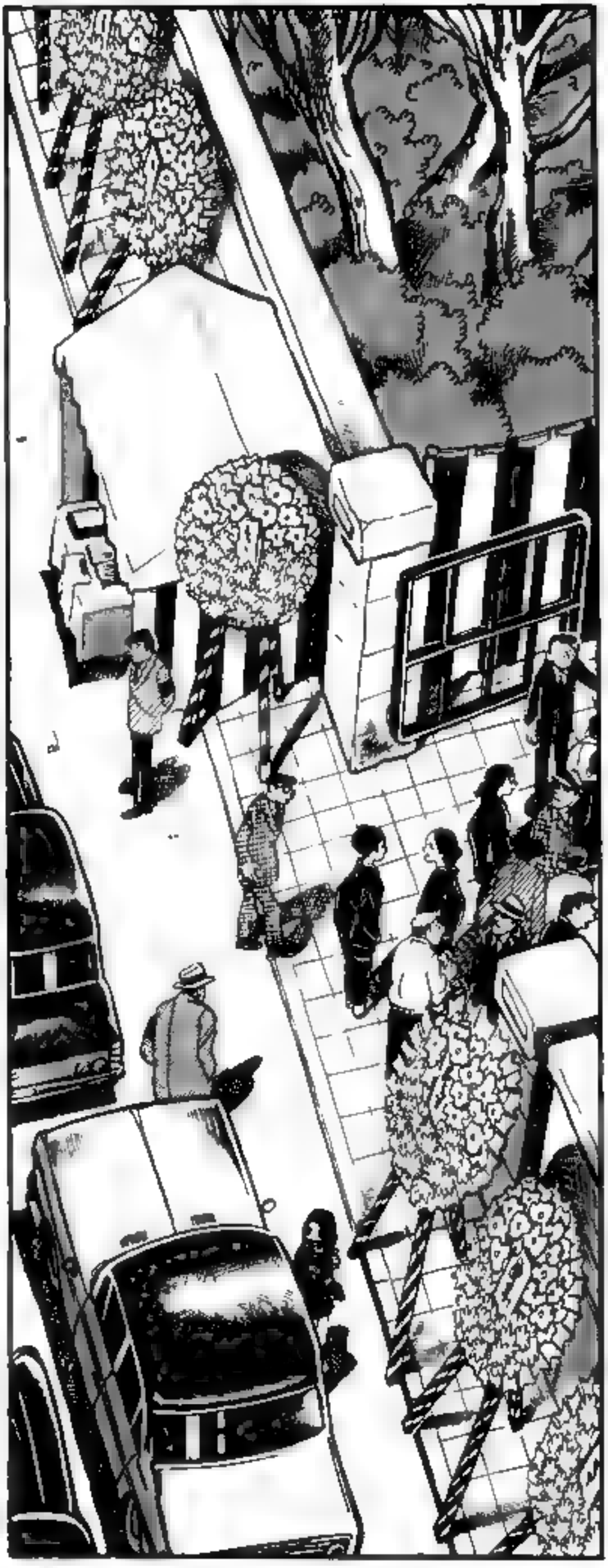
WOULD THAT BE ALRIGHT WITH YOU...?

FINE...





Rikiishi Tooru of Shiraki Gym Dies on the Ring!
Severe weight loss and a blow to the temple gave way to a fatal tragedy
Funeral to be held at Shiraki Residences Today

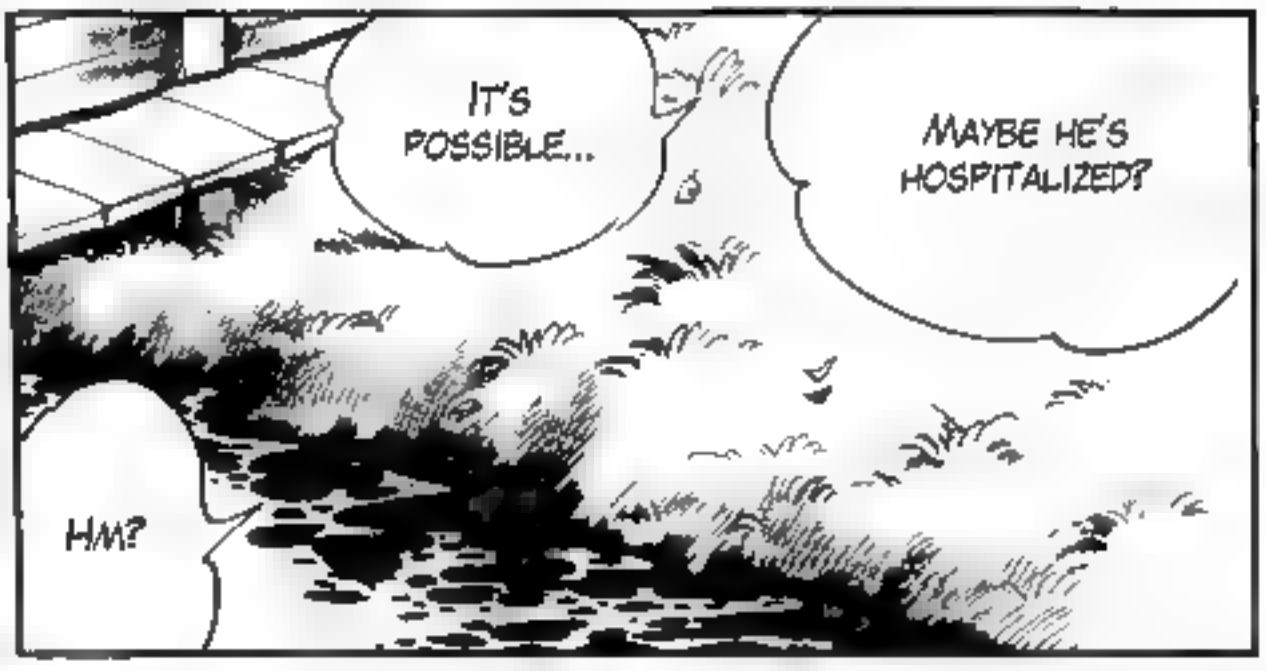


BEATS ME...
WHY ISN'T THE ONE WHO DROVE RIKIISHI TO HIS DEATH HERE FOR THE FUNERAL?
HEY, WHAT'S THE DEAL...?

WELL, LET'S GO TAKE A LOOK.
I'LL COME TOO.
MAYBE HE'S TOO INJURED TO COME...?
HE WAS BEATEN PRETTY BADLY AND KNOCKED DOWN SEVERAL TIMES DURING THE MATCH.

IS HE THERE?
NO, I EVEN LOOKED IN THE ATTIC AND HE'S NOT ANYWHERE...
I WONDER WHERE HE IS?

G-GUYS, LOOK...


IT'S POSSIBLE...
MAYBE HE'S HOSPITALIZED?
HM?

B-BUT WHAT IS HE DOING...!?
AH, YOU'RE RIGHT!
ISN'T THAT... JOE OVER THERE...?

THE SCORE'S TIED AT 3:3! JUST WHO WILL TAKE IT ALL!?

THIS IS TURNING OUT TO BE ONE HECK OF A MATCH!

ALRIGHT, FACE EACH OTHER AND GET SET!

SUMO'S BORING! LET'S GO PLAY SOMETHING ELSE!

BE QUIET, THINGS ARE GETTTIN' REAL INTENSE RIGHT NOW!

YOU DON'T EVEN FIGHT LIKE A GIRL SO WHAT'S THE MATTER?

WHY DON'CHA JUST PLAY SUMO WITH US?

STOP WHINING, SACHI.

WHY DON'T WE DO SOME-THING I CAN PLAY FOR ONCE!?

NO! ALL WE'VE BEEN DOING IS STUPID GAMES FOR ONLY BOYS LIKE SWORDFIGHTS AND SUMO!

I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW I'M A LADY!

WAAAHH!

AND LADIES DON'T PLAY VIOLENT GAMES!

WHAT WAS THAT!?

OWW!

YOU CAN'T MOVE UNTIL I SAY SO, GOT IT?

HEY NOW, I DIDN'T EVEN GIVE THE SIGNAL

THAT'S CHEATIN', KINOKO!

HEE HEE

FIGHT!

READY...

ALRIGHT THEN...

I'LL GET YOU GOOD..

OWW!

HANG IN THERE, KICHIYAMA!

ALRIGHT! C'MON, YOU CAN DO IT!

YEAH, JUST LIKE THAT, KINOKO!

WHAT THE...

AHH!

I WAS WONDERING WHAT WOULD MAKE HIM MISS THE FUNERAL BUT THIS IS WHAT HE'S UP TO?

IT LOOKS LIKE HE HASN'T GOT A CARE IN THE WORLD...

NO, I'M THE WINNER!

I SAW HIS FOOT STEP OUTSIDE THE RING JUST NOW!

IT WAS NOTHIN'.

DAMN, AREN'T YOU STRONG!

YOUR FOOT WAS HALF OVER THE LINE WHEN YOU WERE IN THE MIDDLE OF YOUR TOSS.

WHEN DID I EVER STEP OUTSIDE!?

HE'S RIGHT YOU KNOW.

MORE LIKE WAAAY OVER THE LINE!

I SAW IT TOO.

HE'S RIGHT,

THIS CALLS FOR A REMATCH!

ALRIGHTY THEN!

LET'S DO SOMETHING SACHI CAN PLAY TOO NOW.

ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT. THAT'S ENOUGH FOR SUMO.

WHO GIVES A RAT'S TAIL? LET'S PLAY SOMETHING ELSE ALREADY.

NO YOU DIDN'T! WHAT KINDA IDIOT LOOKS AT HIS FEET WHEN HE PLAYS SUMO!?

I SAW TO IT MYSELF THAT MY FEET WERE INSIDE THE CIRCLE!

YOU'RE LYING!

HEE HEE, I HAD IT ALL PREPARED...

JUST SO YOU KNOW, I HATE PLAYING HOUSE!

HMPH, SO JUST WHAT THE HECK DID YOU WANT TO PLAY?

YIPEE!

WE'RE THE BABIES!?

UGH!

THE REST OF YOU CAN BE THE BABIES!

AND JOE WILL BE THE DAD

I'LL BE THE MOM,

I KNEW IT. SHE WANTS TO PLAY HOUSE...

OH FOR THE LOVE OF...

I KNOW THAT GOING TO THE FUNERAL OF THE GUY YOU KILLED IS NO EASY MATTER BUT...

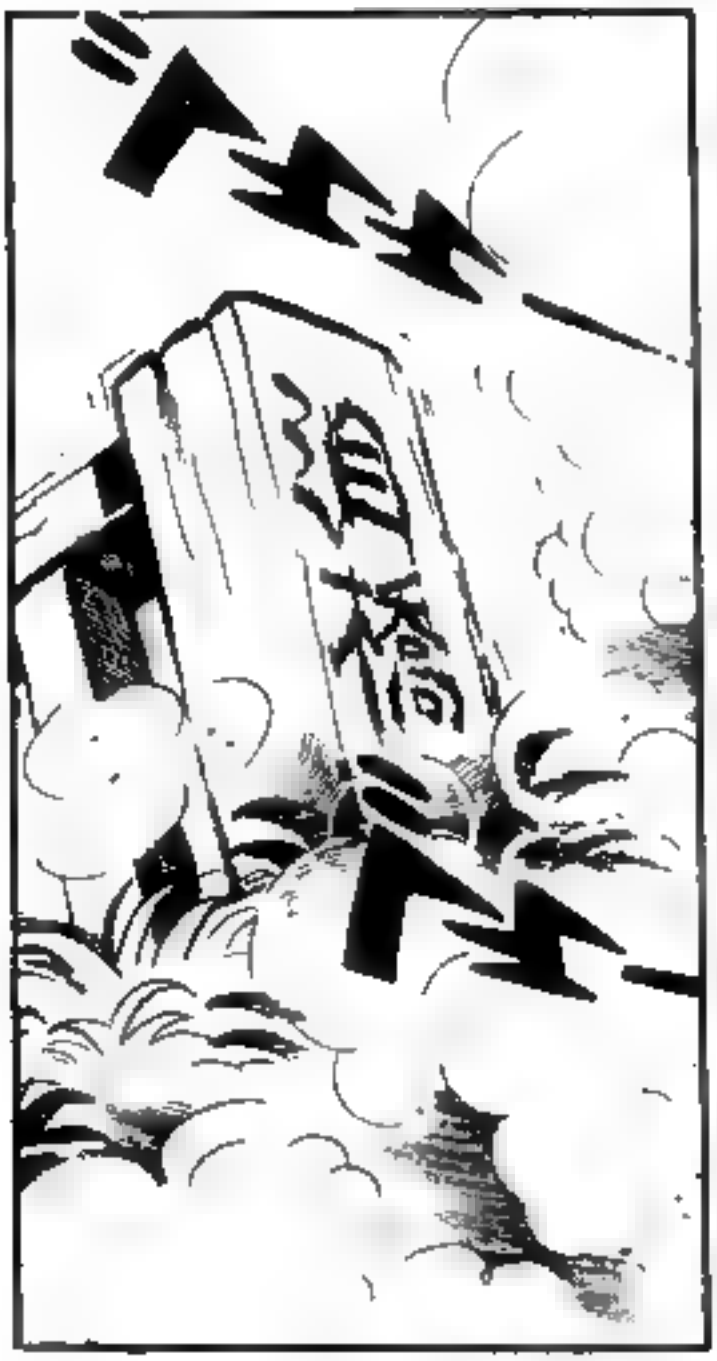
IS THIS FOR REAL?

HIS FIRST KO-LOSS RESULTS IN HIS OPPONENT'S DEATH...

ONE HAS TO WONDER IF HE'S NOT ACTUALLY HAPPY WITH HOW THINGS TURNED OUT...

THAT YABUKI'S ONE COLD-HEARTED MONSTER, I TELL YOU WHAT.

THE LEAST HE COULD DO IS GO AND LIGHT AN INCENSE STICK, IF NOT SHED A FEW TEARS.



I DON'T EVEN WANT TO REPORT THIS. IT'LL JUST UPSET THE POOR FOLKS AT SHIRAKI GYM EVEN MORE.

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.

GUYS, WE SAW NOTHING, RIGHT?

RIGHT..

CAN'T I EVEN GET A MOMENT'S PEACE AROUND HERE!?

BE QUIET, YOU DARN KIDS!

BUT THAT'S JUST GRASS.

I'M FRYING THE EGGS RIGHT NOW

DINNER'S ALMOST READY, DEAR.

LET'S AT LEAST PLAY WITH SOME REAL FOOD.

DINNER'S READY, DEAR!

TADA!

SHUT UP, TONKICHI...

I BET IF WE GO THE GYM'S KITCHEN, WE CAN SCORE SOME-

DEAR ...?

. . . .

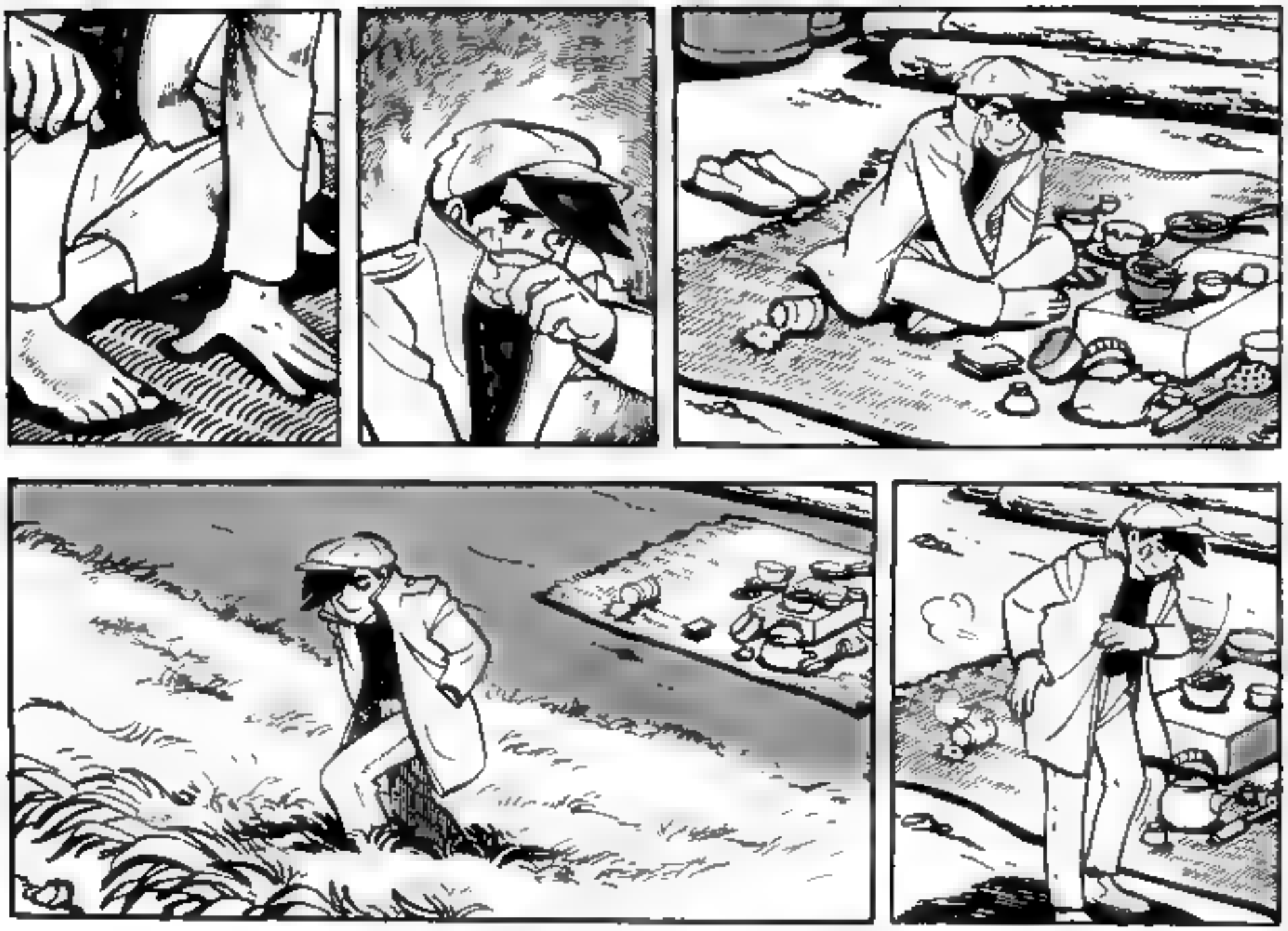
. . . .
. . . .

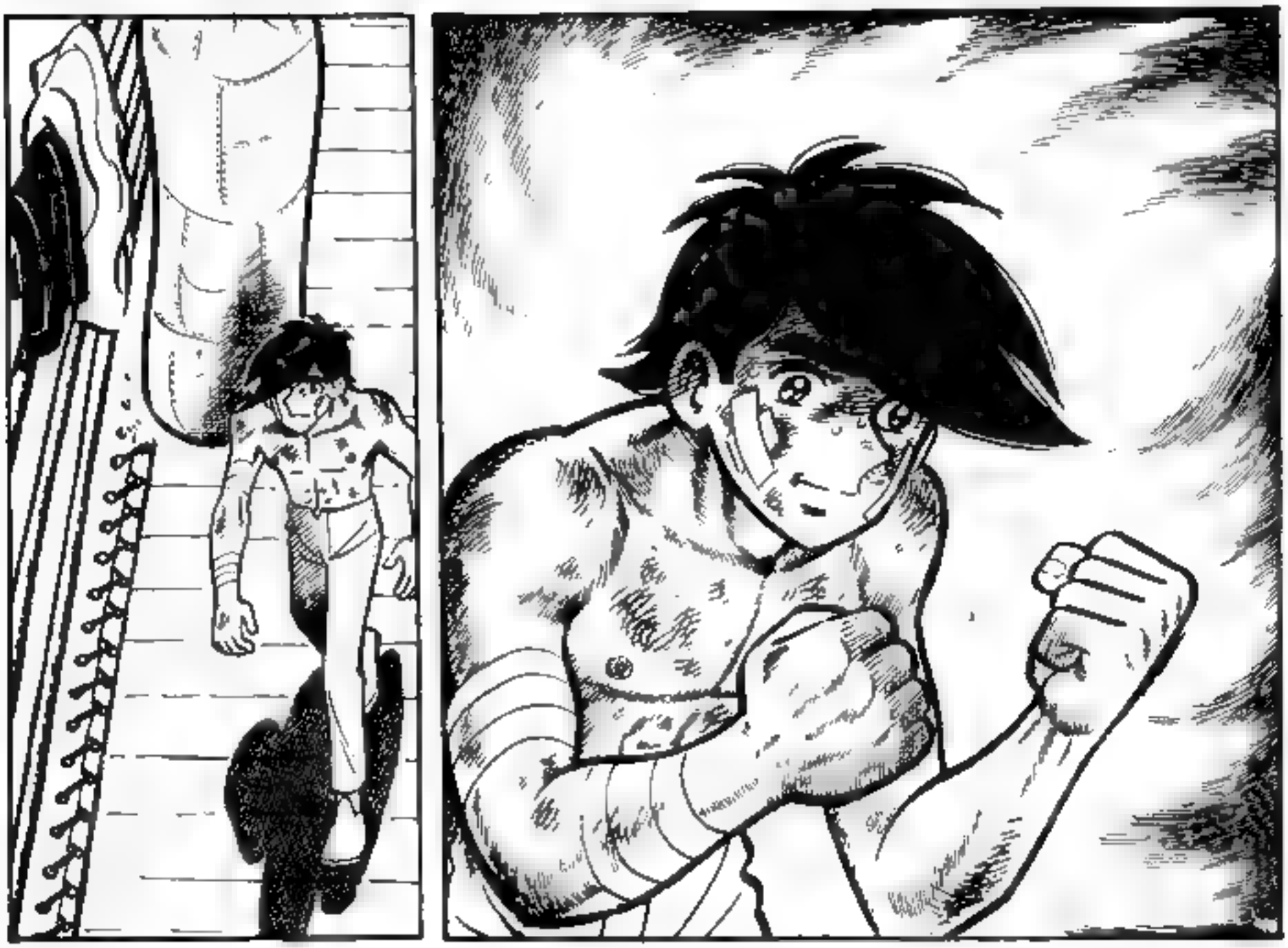
I GOTTA GO HOME NOW ..
! UHH...

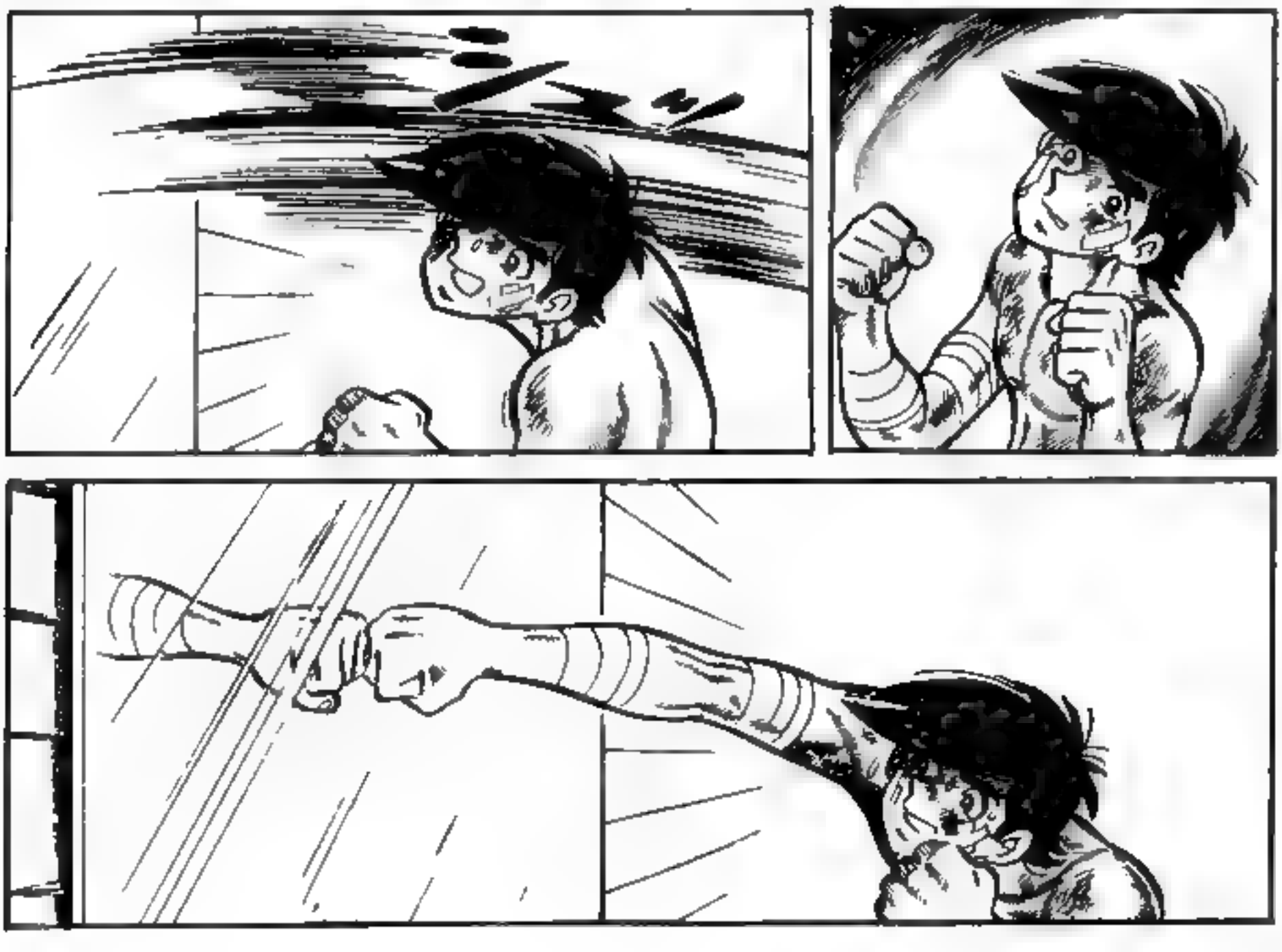
YEAH, MY MOM'S GONNA GET ANGRY IF I'M NOT BACK BY DINNERTIME...

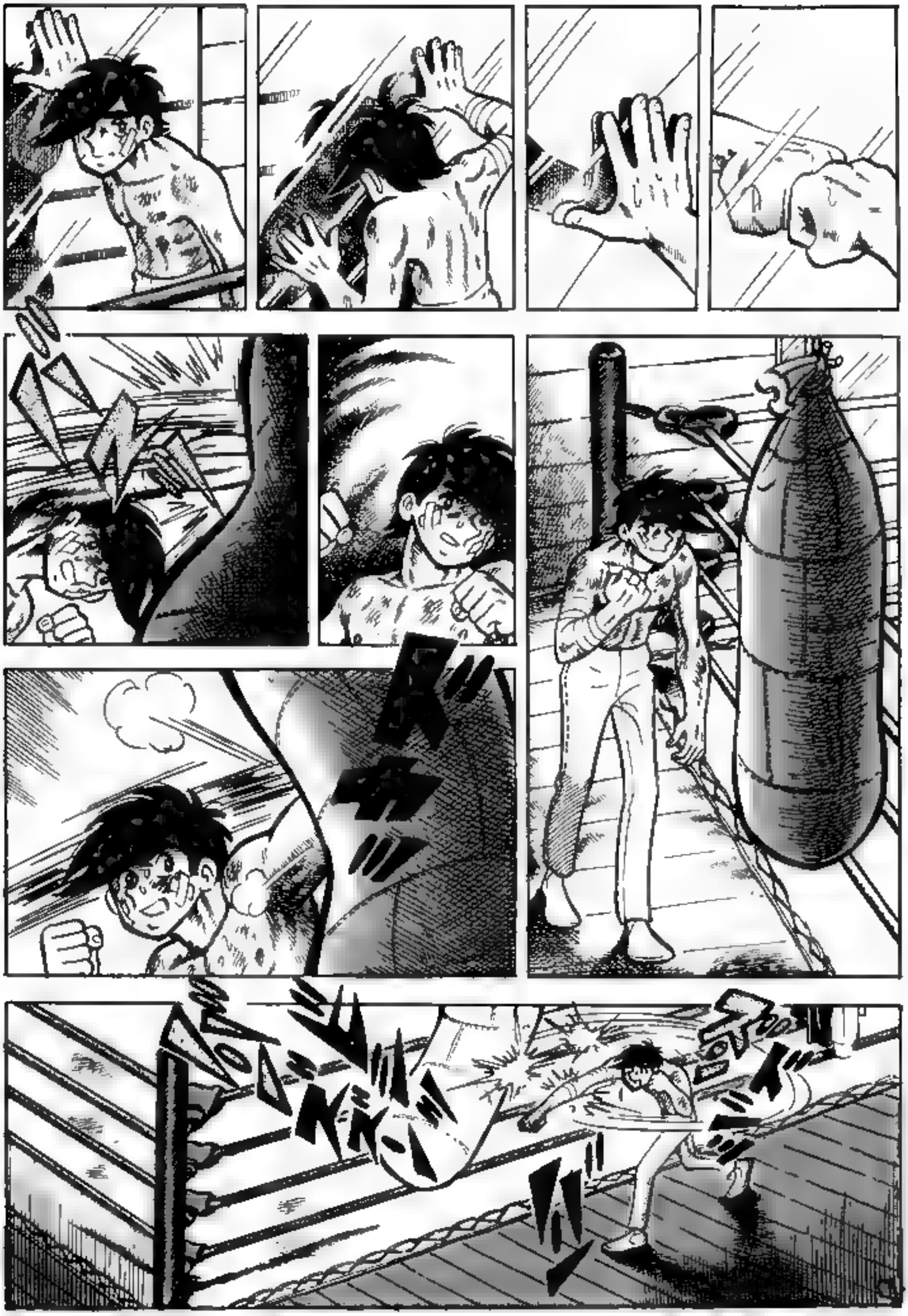
Y-YEAH, ME TOO.

I HAVE TO... GO...
M-ME TOO...

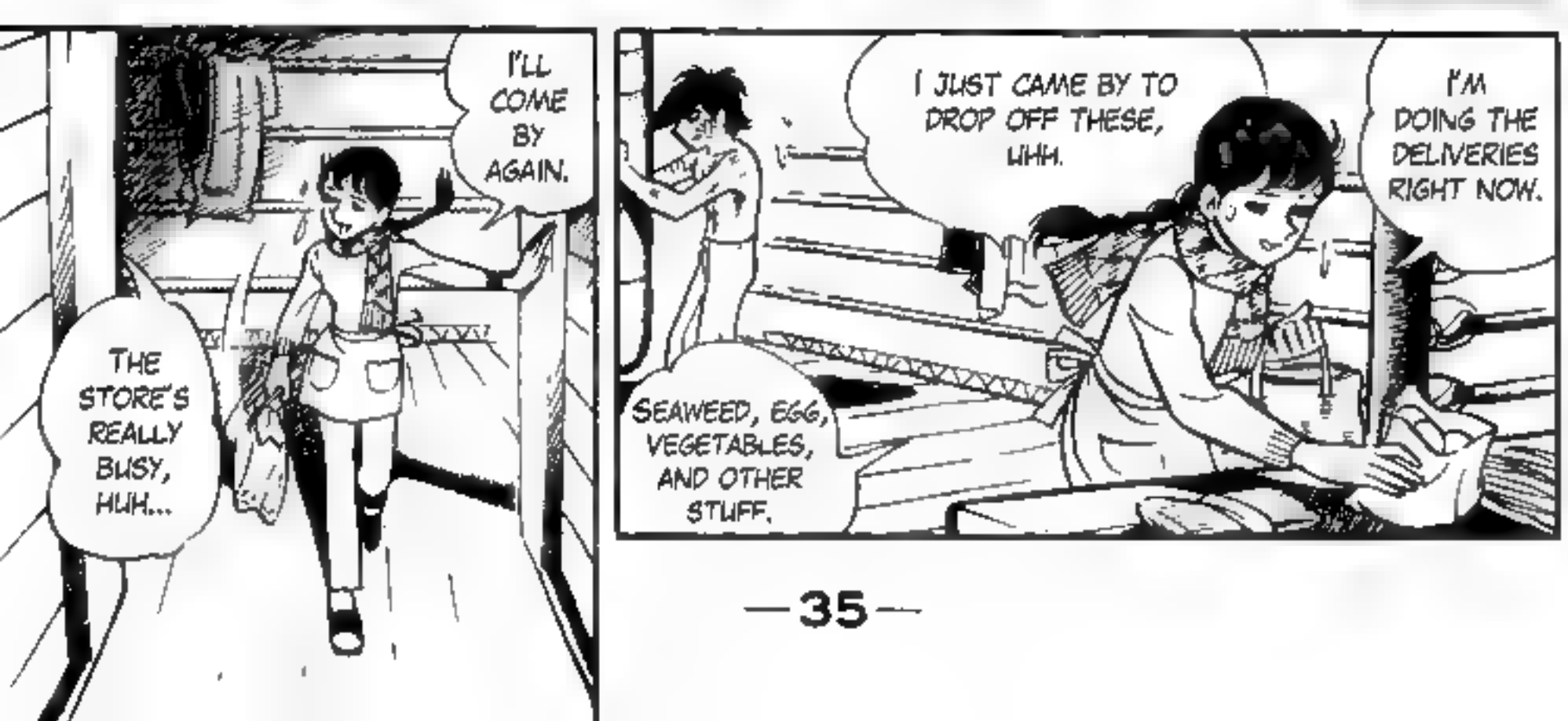








S-SORRY ABOUT BARGING IN...
I TRIED KNOCKING BUT NOBODY REPLIED SO I THOUGHT NO ONE WAS INSIDE...
UMM...
NORI-

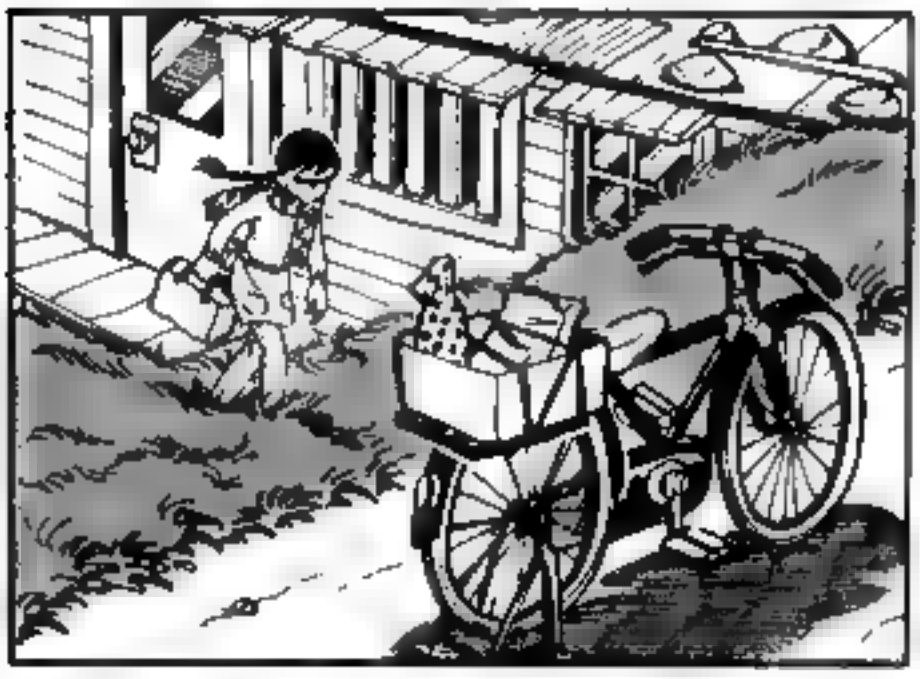

I'LL COME BY AGAIN.
THE STORE'S REALLY BUSY, HUH...
I JUST CAME BY TO DROP OFF THESE, UHH.
I'M DOING THE DELIVERIES RIGHT NOW.
SEAWEED, EGG, VEGETABLES, AND OTHER STUFF.

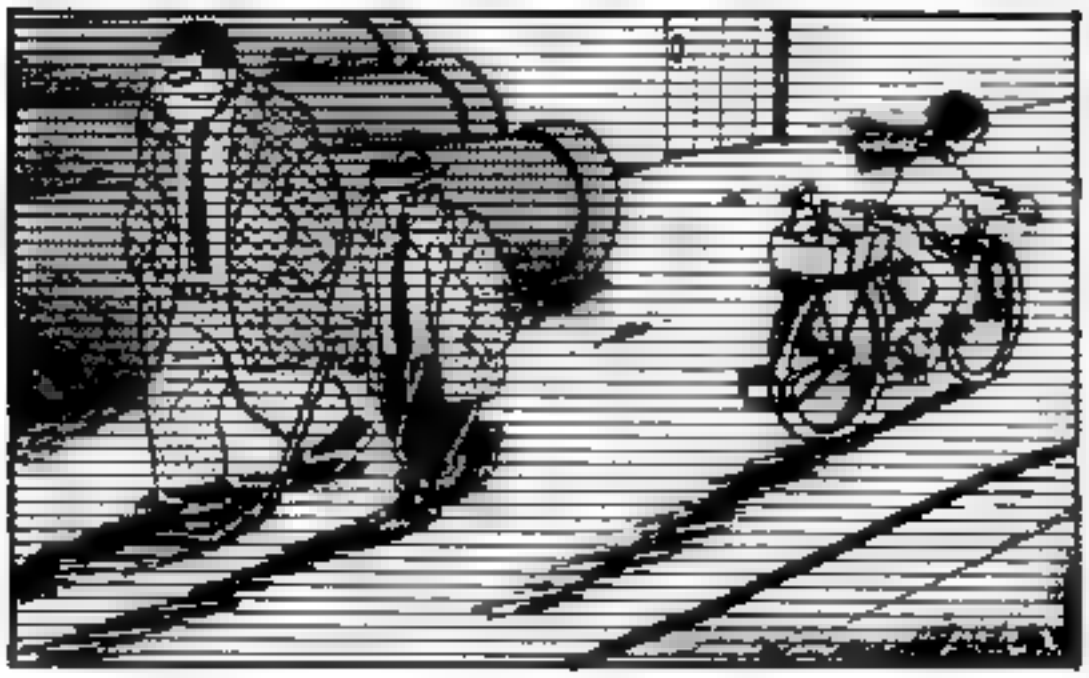
. . . .

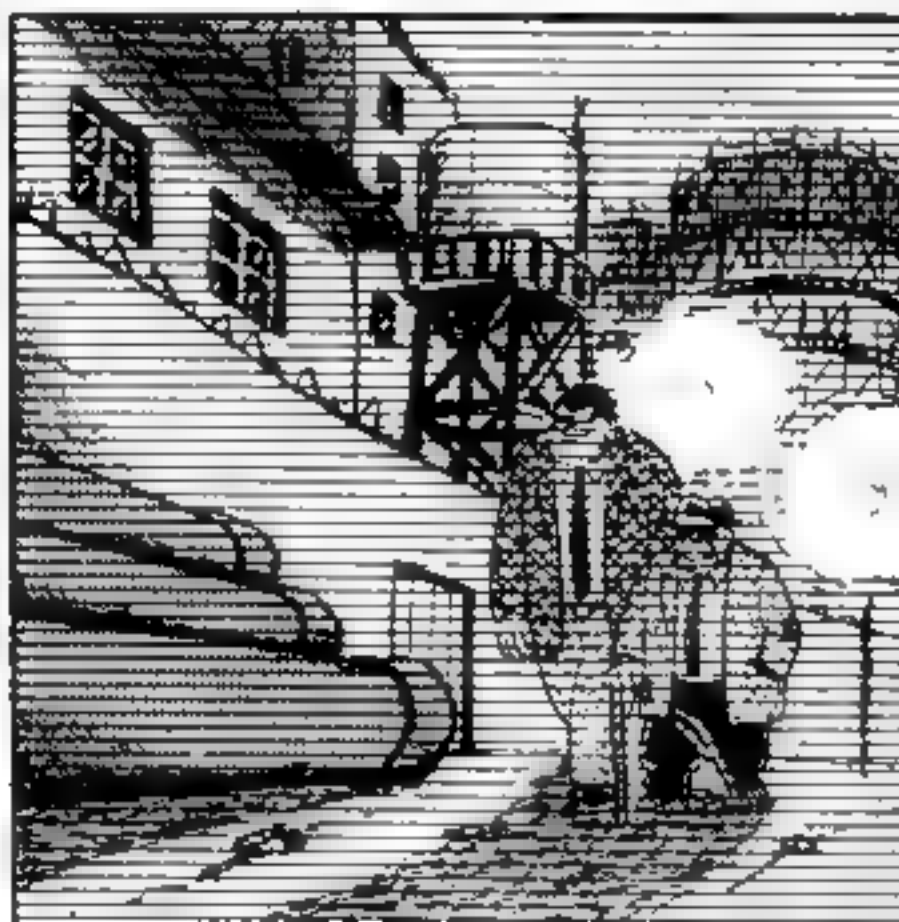
DAD SAID YOU NEED REST MORE THAN ANYTHING RIGHT NOW AFTER THAT GRUELLING MATCH.
NO, IT'S FINE.

SORRY, I REALLY SHOULD BE HELPING OUT...

ぎゅっ







WAS THAT NORIKO ON THE BIKE JUST NOW ?

LOOKS LIKE IT...

ガチャ

HUH? IT'S PITCH BLACK IN HERE. TURN ON THE LIGHTS, NISHI.

OK.

DO I HEAR SOMEONE HITTING THE SANDBAG?

JOE-

IS HE AWAKE RIGHT NOW...?

THAT'S RIGHT.

WHAT'RE YOU DOING, JOE? YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE TRAINING.

THE DOCTOR SAID YOU STILL NEED PLENTY OF REST TO FULLY RECOVER, REMEMBER?

JUST ABOUT ANYBODY WHO'S A SOMEBODY IN THE BOXING LEAGUE WAS THERE.

IT WAS SOMETHING.

SO HOW WAS THE FUNERAL...?

SHE MANAGED TO STAY STRONG THROUGHOUT THE FUNERAL.

NO, IT LOOKED LIKE SHE WAS ABLE TO COLLECT HERSELF.

CRYING, WASN'T SHE?

YOUKO WAS...

I'LL BE TAKING A SHORT WALK OUTSIDE.

I'M FEELING A BIT STUFFY AFTER THE WORKOUT JUST NOW.

AIN'T NOBODY'S FAULT

WELL, IT WAS AN ACCIDENT.

JOE...

ドオオ

AH...

HAD HE BEEN PUNCHING BARE-HANDED FOR...?

J-JUST HOW LONG,

ゴゥゥッ

HA...

I...

I KILLED HIM, DIDN'T I.

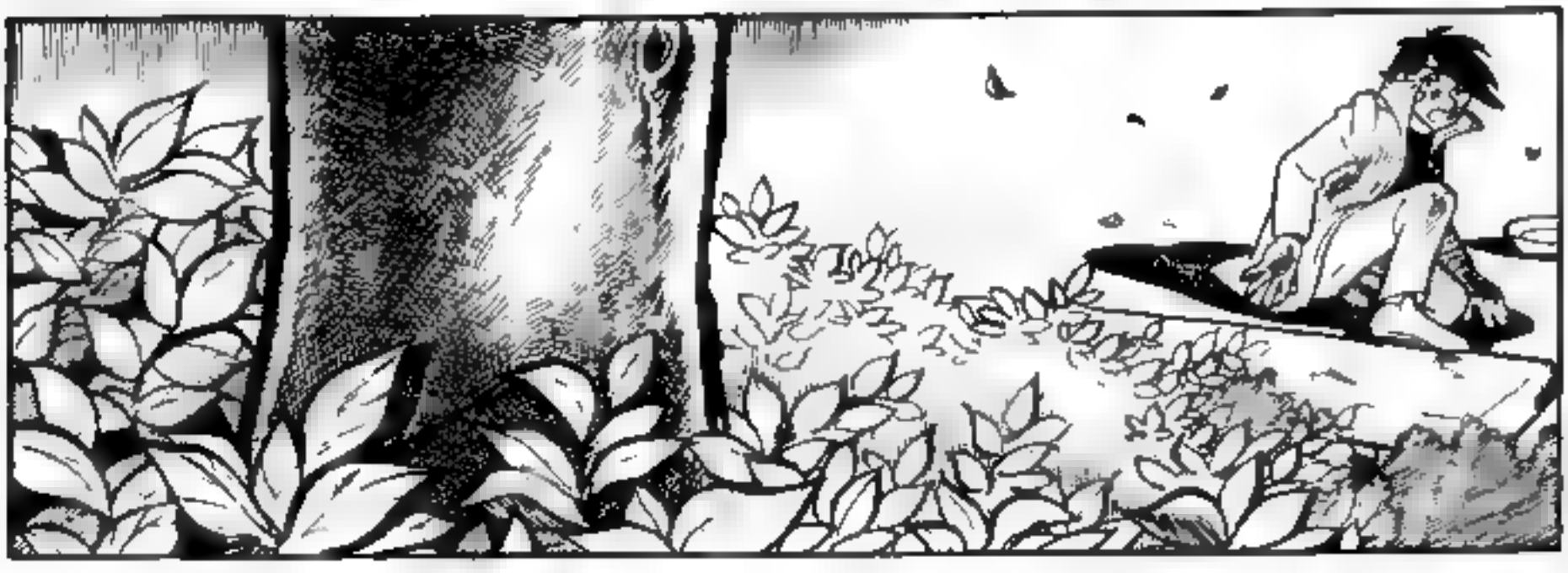
RIKI...

TOOK RIKIISHI'S LIFE AWAY...

THESE HANDS...

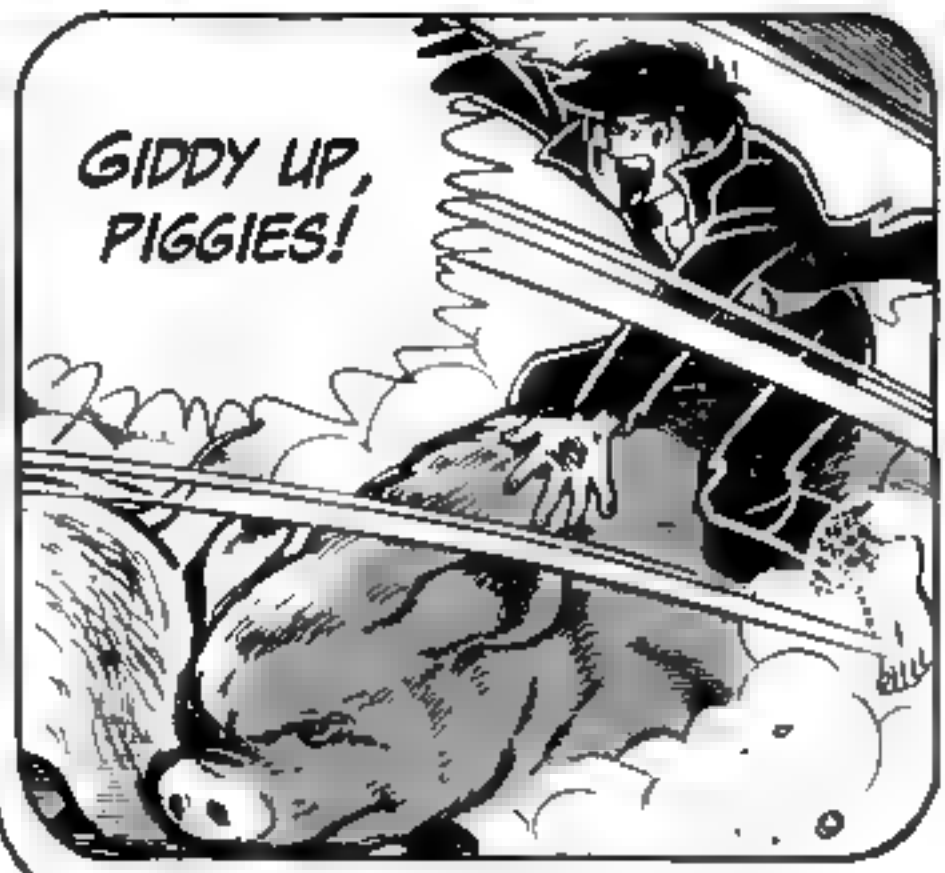
RIKIISHI...

RI...
KII...
SHI..



KRAK!

ALMOST THERE!
JUST A LITTLE MORE AND FREEDOM WILL BE OURS FOR THE TAKING!


GIDDY UP, PIGGIES!
CHARGE RIGHT AHEAD AND BUST DOWN THOSE GATES!

HOW DID THINGS TURN OUT THIS WAY...?
K"
K"
K"K"
K"

BACK IN JUVIE, HE WAS JUST SOME ARROGANT PUNK WHO PUT A STOP TO MY ESCAPE,

AND MADE A FOOL OUTTA ME IN FRONT OF ALL THE OTHER GUARDS AND MY INMATES...

I HATED HIM SO MUCH,

I EVEN SWORE I'D KILL HIM...

WHY...

SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH MY HEAD...

BUT NOW THAT THAT'S HAPPENED,

WHY DO I WANT TO SEE HIM MORE THAN ANYONE IN THE WORLD. WHY DOES MY HEART HURT SO DAMN MUCH...

JOE...

THAT BEING SAID, YOU SHOULDN'T TORTURE YOURSELF EITHER...

BUT THERE'S NO NEED TO FORCE YOURSELF.

YOU'VE DONE WELL PUTTING UP A TOUGH FRONT,

LET ME SEE YOUR HANDS, JOE...

THERE ARE COUNTLESS OTHER BOXERS WHO LIVE WITH THAT BURDEN.

WHETHER IN JAPAN OR SOME OTHER COUNTRY,

IS A NATURAL BURDEN THAT COMES TO ANYONE WITH FISTS AS STRONG AS YOURS.

THE GRIEF YOU BEAR,

IT'LL BE THE DEATH OF ME AS WELL.

I THINK ...

FOR SOME, THE SHOCK IS TOO MUCH AND IT BECOMES THE DEATH OF THEM.

EVER SINCE I SAW RIKIISHI'S COLD, LIFELESS FACE, MY HEAD'S JUST NOT BEEN THE SAME.

I KNOW I SOUND PATHETIC AND ALL BUT EVER SINCE THEN...

BUT THERE ARE OTHERS WHO'VE OVERCOME IT AS WELL.

HA.

MY MIND GOES ALL BLANK.

HOW RIKIISHI DOESN'T EXIST IN THIS WORLD ANYMORE...

WHEN I THINK TO MYSELF,

I FEEL LIKE A HUGE HOLE'S BEEN CARVED THROUGH MY BODY, AND MY EARS ARE RINGING FROM THE WIND HOWLING THROUGH THAT HOLE.

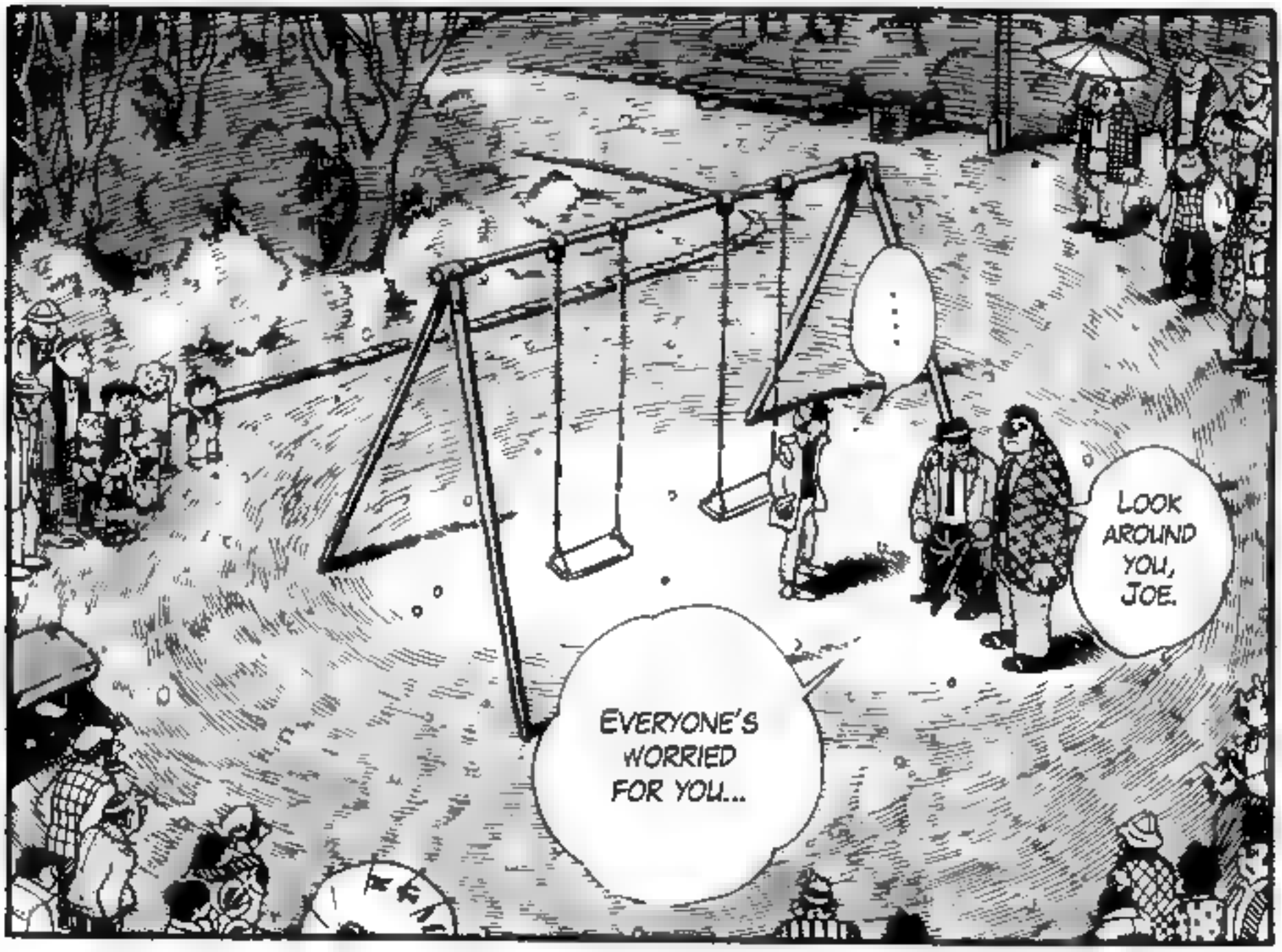
NOT JUST MY HEAD, EITHER. MY CHEST, GUTS, HANDS, LEGS...

COULD YOU... JUST LEAVE ME BE FOR NOW...?

I CAN'T BEGIN TO MAKE HEADS OR TAILS OF WHAT TO DO FROM NOW.

I FEEL SO EMPTY AND WEAK,

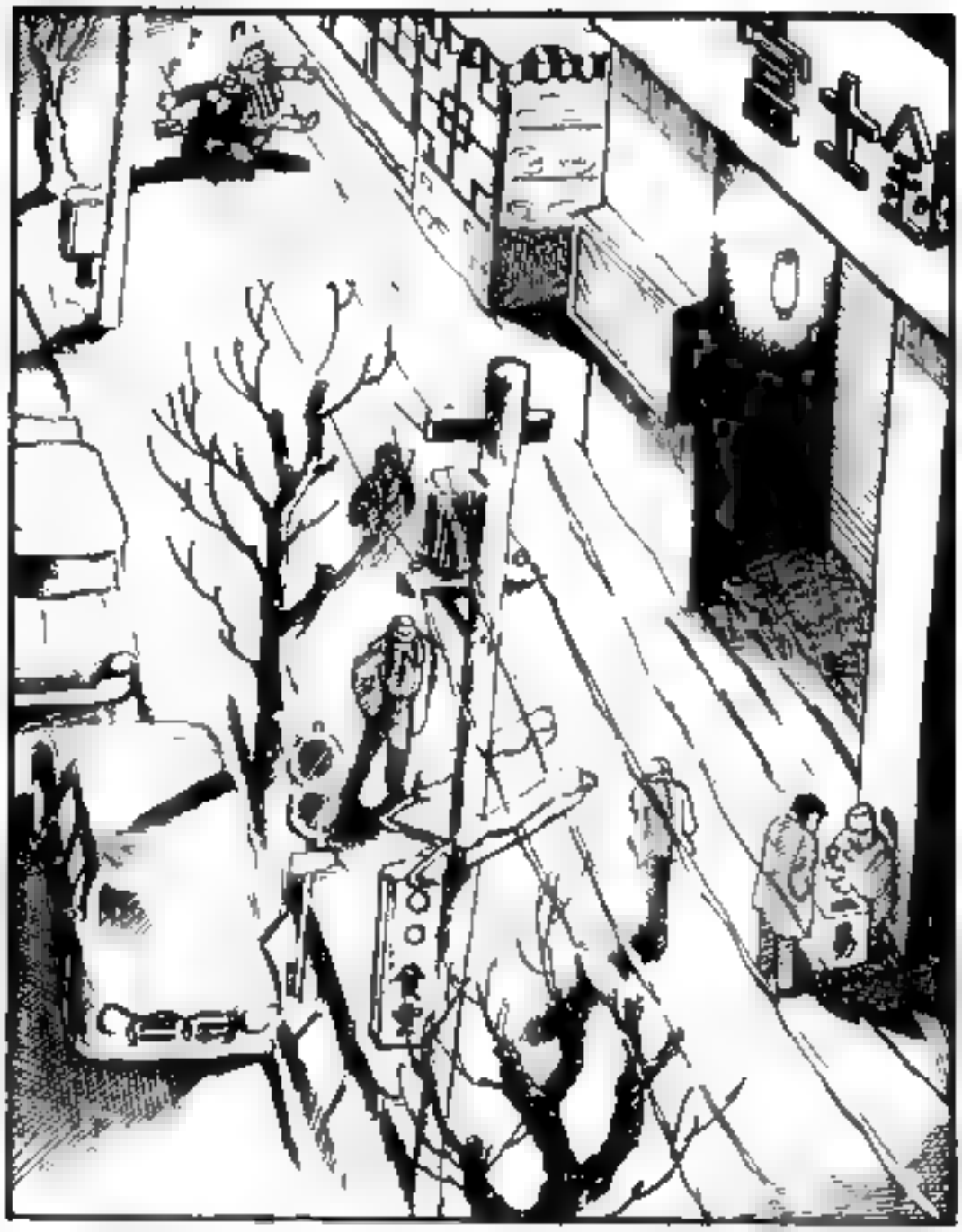
I SAID LEAVE ME ALONE!

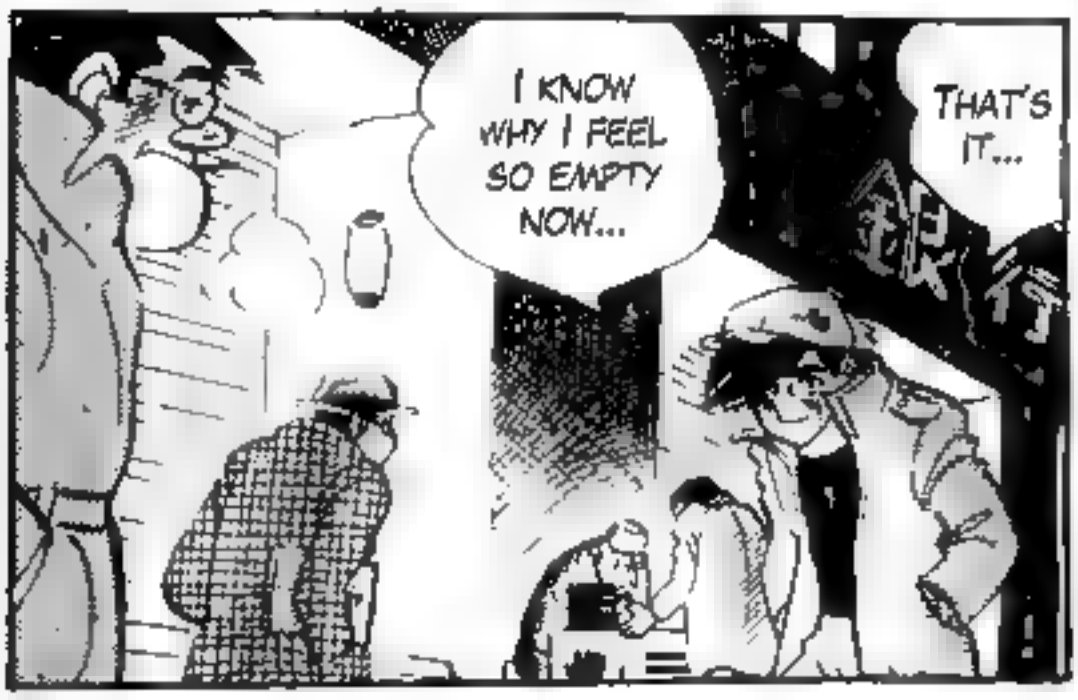

EVERYONE'S WORRIED FOR YOU...
LOOK AROUND YOU, JOE.

WHERE'RE YOU GOING!?

JOE!

JOOOOEEE!




I KNOW WHY I FEEL SO EMPTY NOW...
THAT'S IT...

K"

YOU GOT BEEF WITH ME OR SOMETHIN'!?

HEY, DUMBASS!

EVERYONE'S TREATED ME THAT WAY, LIKE I'M SOME UGLY ROCK ON THE ROAD.

ALL MY LIFE,

CHRIST!

IS IT SO DAMN HARD TO WATCH WHERE YOU'RE WALKING!?

BUT YOU...

SAW ME AS A MERE TOOL TO CHASE AFTER HIS OWN DREAMS...

EVEN OLD MAN DANPEI,

ORPHAN, PUNK,

HOODLUM, LUNATIC-

THEY CALLED ME EVERYTHING...

YOU WERE DIFFERENT, RIKIISHI.

HEY, PAL!

WANT SOMETHING TO EAT?

SIT RIGHT DOWN!

GOT A CUSTOMER HERE!

AIN'T NOTHING LIKE SOME HOT ODEN AND A DRINK ON A COLD WINTER NIGHT.

C'MON, C'MON!

WITHOUT ANY SELF-SERVING PURPOSES, YOU FOUGHT ME FOR WHO I WAS.

CAME RIGHT AT ME WHILE BARING ALL YOU HAD.

YOU ALONE,

SO, WHAT'LL YOU HAVE?

OUR TIME TOGETHER WAS AS INTENSE AS IT WAS BRIEF.

JUST GIVE HIM ANYTHING.

HEH, HE'S PROBABLY ALREADY HAD A FEW DRINKS AT SOME OTHER PLACE.

HE AIN'T ANSWERIN'.

THE SWEAT AND BLOOD WE SHED...

THE PUNCHES WE EXCHANGED...

HELLOOO? CAN YOU HEAR ME?

MY ONE, TRUE FRIEND.

YOU REALLY WERE MY FRIEND...

RIKII-SHI,

WE TALKED WITH OUR VERY SOULS.

THOSE HONEST EXCHANGE OF BLOWS BROUGHT US CLOSER THAN ANY WORDS COULD POSSIBLY DO.

ENJOY THE FOOD!

AFTER I'VE GONE AND KILLED HIM..

AND YET I ONLY REALIZE THIS NOW,

JUST POUR HIM ANOTHER GLASS, STUPID.

IMPRESSIVE. GUY KNOWS HOW TO DRINK.

...!

BURP

WHOO, I'M STUFFED

WHADDA WE OWE YA?

LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT A CRIER.

おで

...GODDAMN IT!

YOU'RE CHARGING US 18 FREAKIN' THOUSAND YEN FOR SOME ODEN AND 2-3 DRINKS!?

ARE YOU KIDDING ME!?

ARE...

18 WHA?

18,000 YEN.

THAT COMES TO...

A-AHH!

WHAT WAS THAT!? YOU'RE TREATING US AS THE CRIMINALS WHEN IT'S YOU WHO'S TRYING NOT TO PAY!?

WHAT, YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD JUST SKIP OUT ON THE BILL BY COMPLAINING!?

WELL THEM'S THE BREAKS, SO PAY UP!

WHAT THE... IT'S LIKE I'M TALKIN' TO THE MAFIA HERE...

THEY SAY MURDER ON THE RING DOESN'T COUNT.

HA... EVEN THOUGH I KILLED A MAN,

AND CONSIDERING HOW I'M NOTHING BUT SOME HOODLUM IF I'M NOT ON THE RING,

BUT BOXING'S NOT FOR ME ANYMORE.

SORRY, OLD MAN,

I'LL JUST DO SOMETHING ELSE TO GET LOCKED UP. I'M SURE I'LL FEEL A WHOLE LOT BETTER IN PRISON THAN OUT HERE.

FINE THEN,

H-HEY NOW, LET'S JUST COOL OUR H-HEADS...

IF YOU DON'T HAVE ENOUGH, WE'LL BE TAKING YOUR WATCHES!

HOW MUCH YA GOT!?

IT MIGHT EVEN BE BETTER FOR SOCIETY THAT I GO TO PRISON.

SENT TO PRISON FOR MANS-LAUGHTER...

YABUKI JOE THE BOXER INVOLVED IN A STREETFIGHT.

I CAN PICTURE THE HEADLINES NOW...

A LICENSED BOXER ASSAULTING A LAYPERSON WILL BE A SERIOUS CRIME.

I'LL BEAT UP THESE ODEN SHOP OWNERS...

THIS IS A GOOD CHANCE.

NOW'S OUR CHANCE! RUN FOR IT!

WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?

HEH, IT'LL BE A FINE END FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME...

WHA?

AH!

HEY, STOP RIGHT THERE!

I'LL MAKE YOU PAY FOR THEIR BILLS AS WELL!

WELL FINE THEN!

SO YOU WANT A PIECE OF ME, IS THAT IT!?

THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING!?

WHAT THE...

DON'T YOU MESS WITH ME, PUNK!

HEH, YOU? KILL ME..?

GOOD, JUST WHAT I WANTED. I'LL KILL THIS SON OF A BITCH.

LOOKS LIKE THIS ONE WANTS TO FIGHT...

WAIT, WHA?

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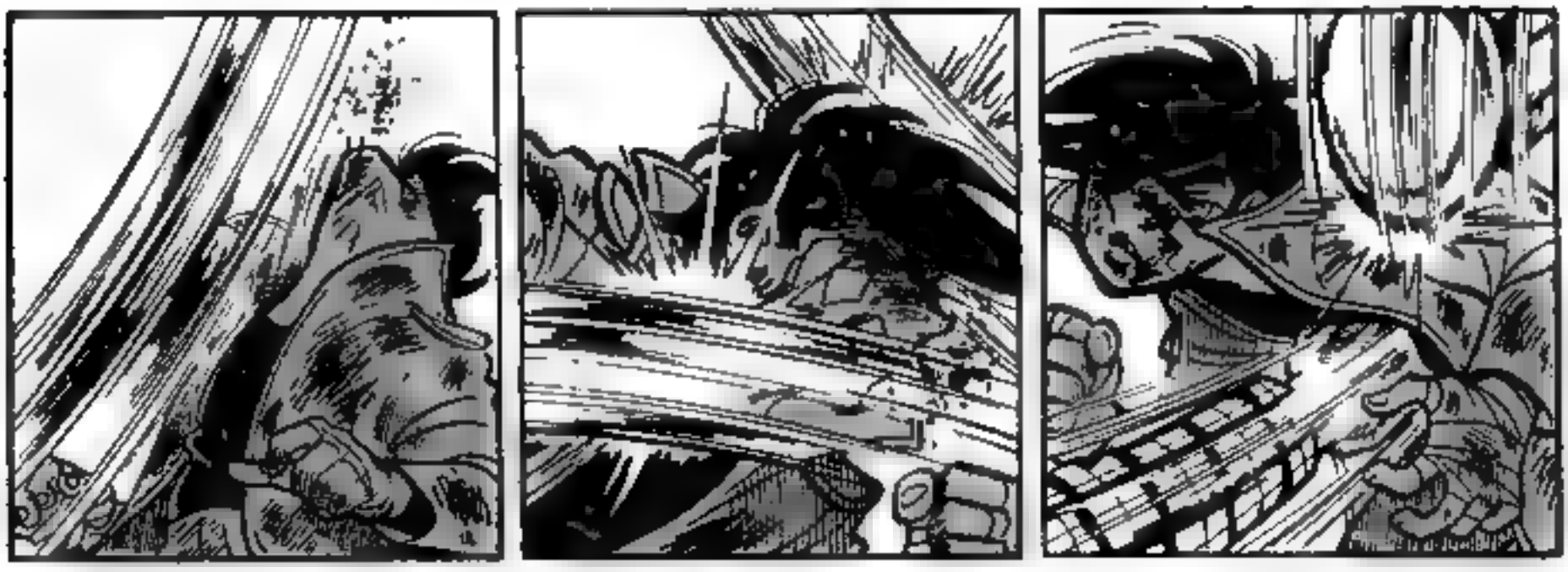
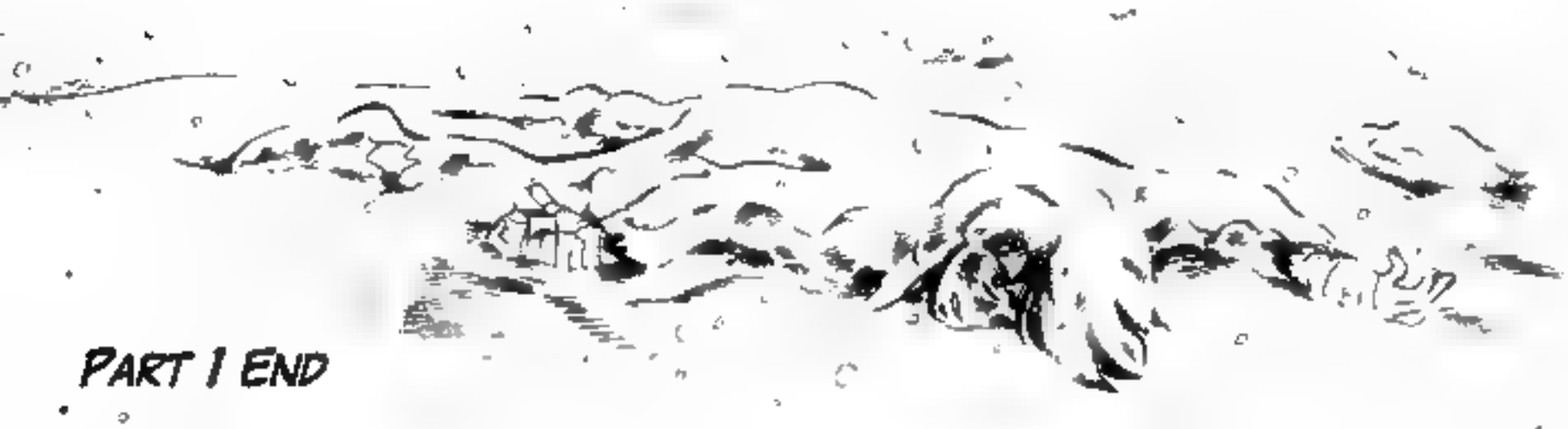
DON'T THINK YOU CAN PUSH US AROUND!

YOU THINK WE'D WAIT JUST 'CAUSE YOU SAID SO?

TAKE THIS! AND THAT!

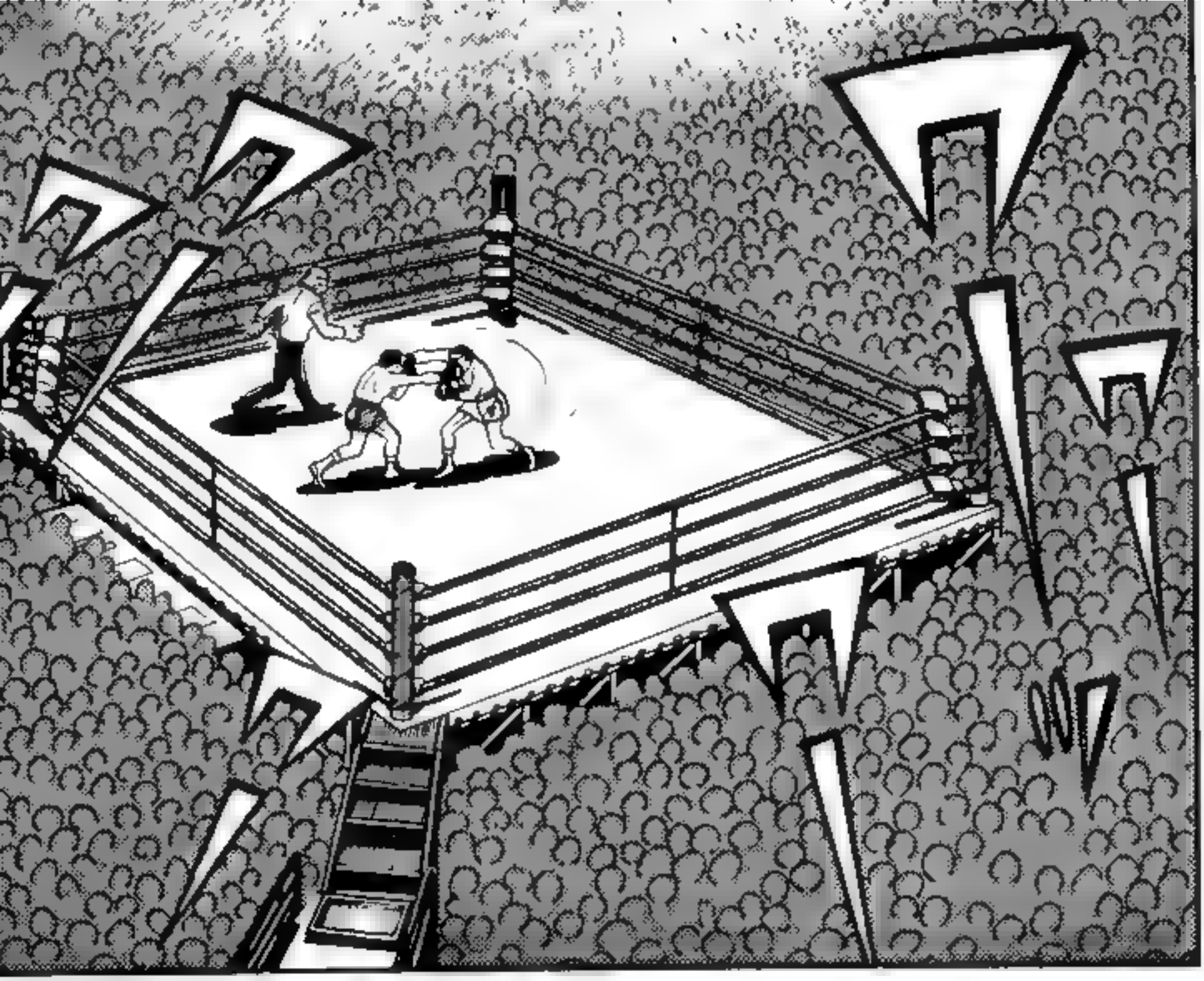


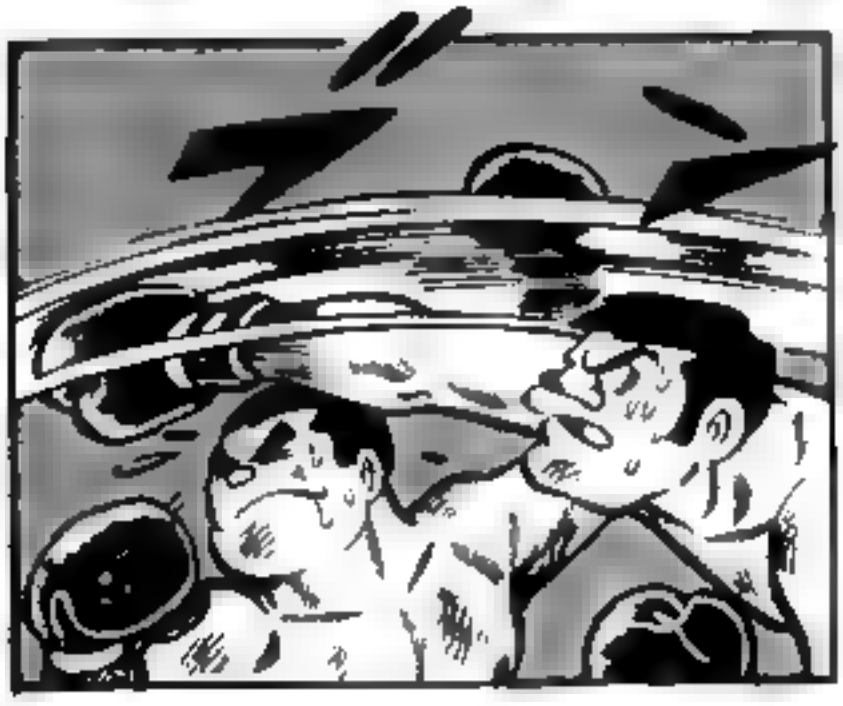
JOE! YABUKI JOE! WILL YOU STAND NO MORE?
JOE! YABUKI JOE! WILL YOU LET YOUR FRIEND RIKIISHI
TOORU'S DEATH GO TO WASTE?"
STAND, JOE! STAND UP AND FIGHT, JOE!

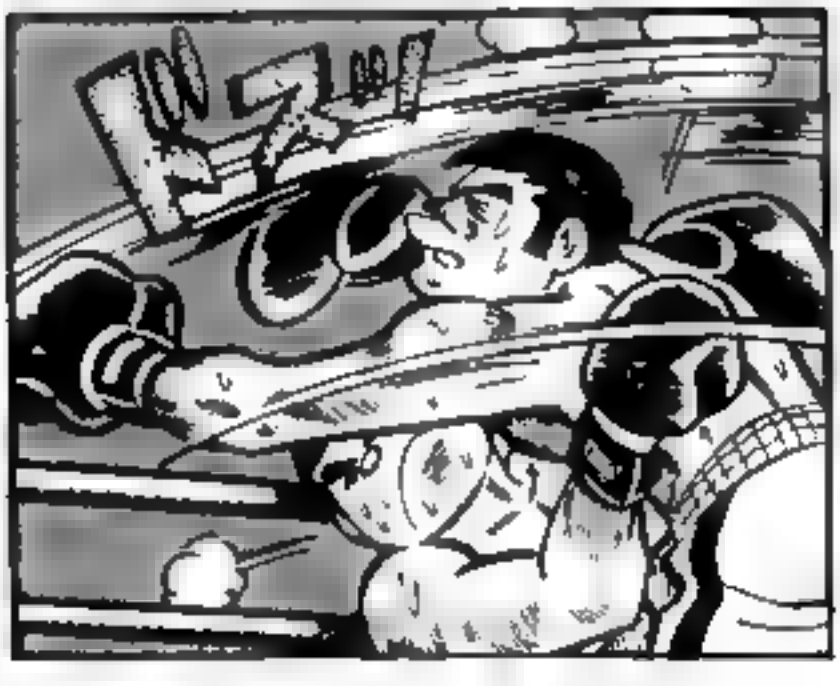


PART 1 END

PART 2:
SQUARE JUNGLE







THAT'S ENOUGH!

NGH-

UGH!

NOW FIGHT!

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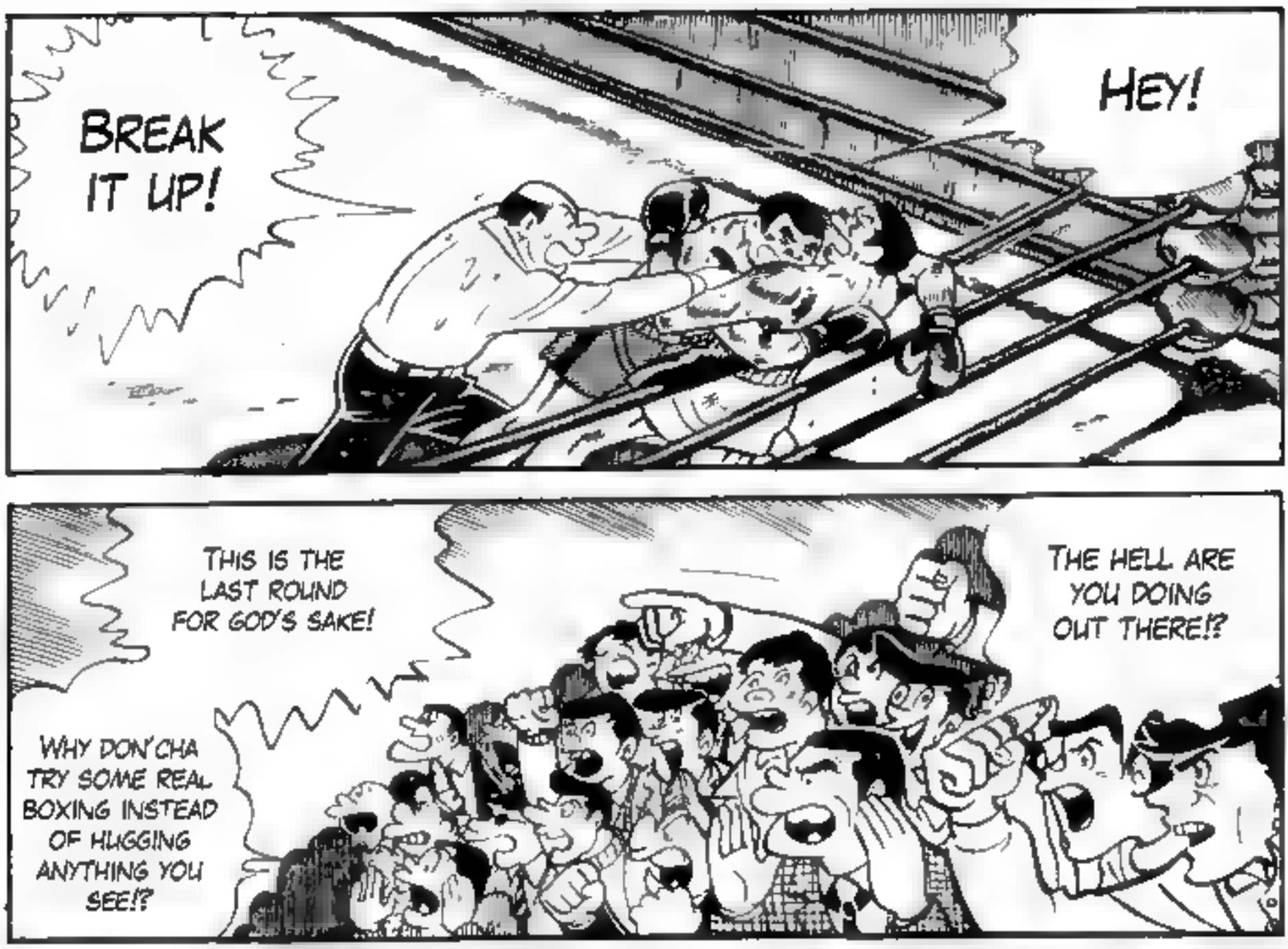
SEPARATE YOURSELVES!

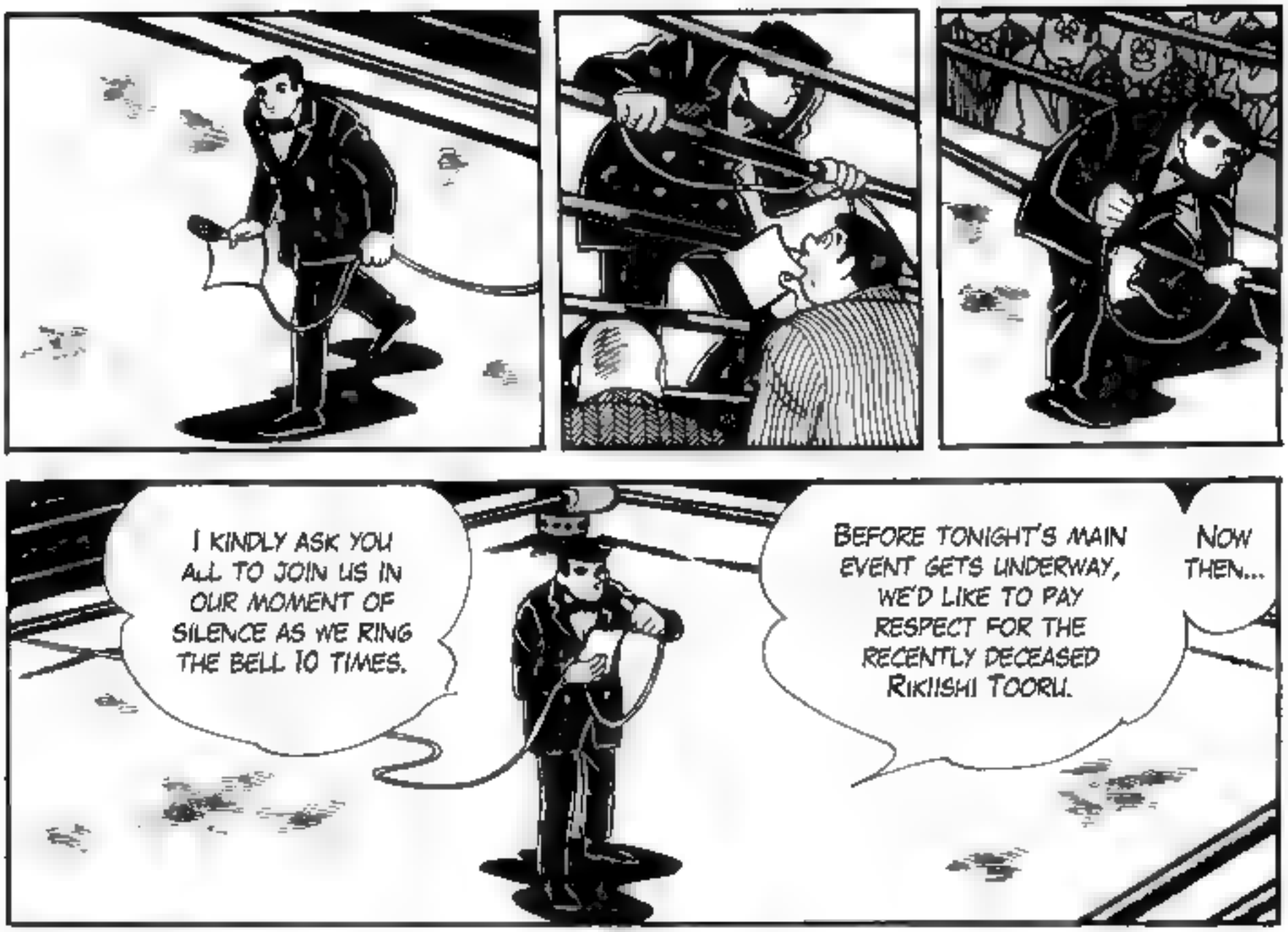
LOWER YOUR GLOVES!

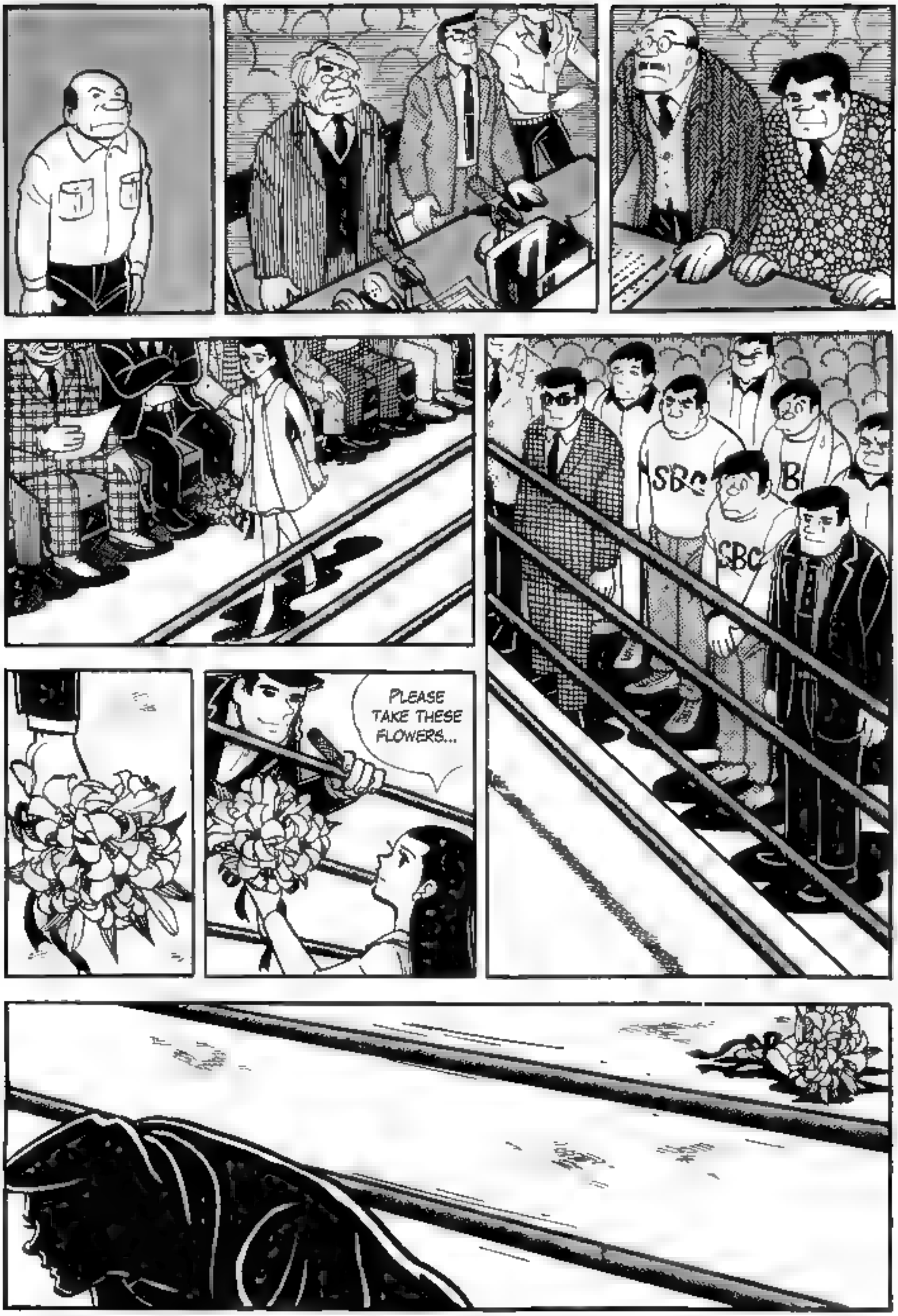

BREAK IT UP!
HEY!
THIS IS THE LAST ROUND FOR GOD'S SAKE!
THE HELL ARE YOU DOING OUT THERE!?
WHY DON'CHA TRY SOME REAL BOXING INSTEAD OF HUGGING ANYTHING YOU SEE!?
STOP! THE MATCH HAS NOW ENDED!

I SAID STOP! DIDN'T YOU HEAR THE BELL RING!?

THE WINNER IS UDAGAWA!

YAMA


I KINDLY ASK YOU ALL TO JOIN US IN OUR MOMENT OF SILENCE AS WE RING THE BELL 10 TIMES.
BEFORE TONIGHT'S MAIN EVENT GETS UNDERWAY, WE'D LIKE TO PAY RESPECT FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED RIKIISHI TOORU.
NOW THEN...
A MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR RIKIISHI.
WHAT'RE THEY DOING BEFORE THE MAIN EVENT NOW?
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT THE BELL?
OH...
SO PLEASE STAND, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.
YES..
GRAND-FATHER...


SBC
SBC
PLEASE TAKE THESE FLOWERS...

NOW THEN...

SBc

OH?
RIKIISHI TOORU...?

YEAH.

GUYS, WE SHOULD ALL STAND TOO.

SA/ap/

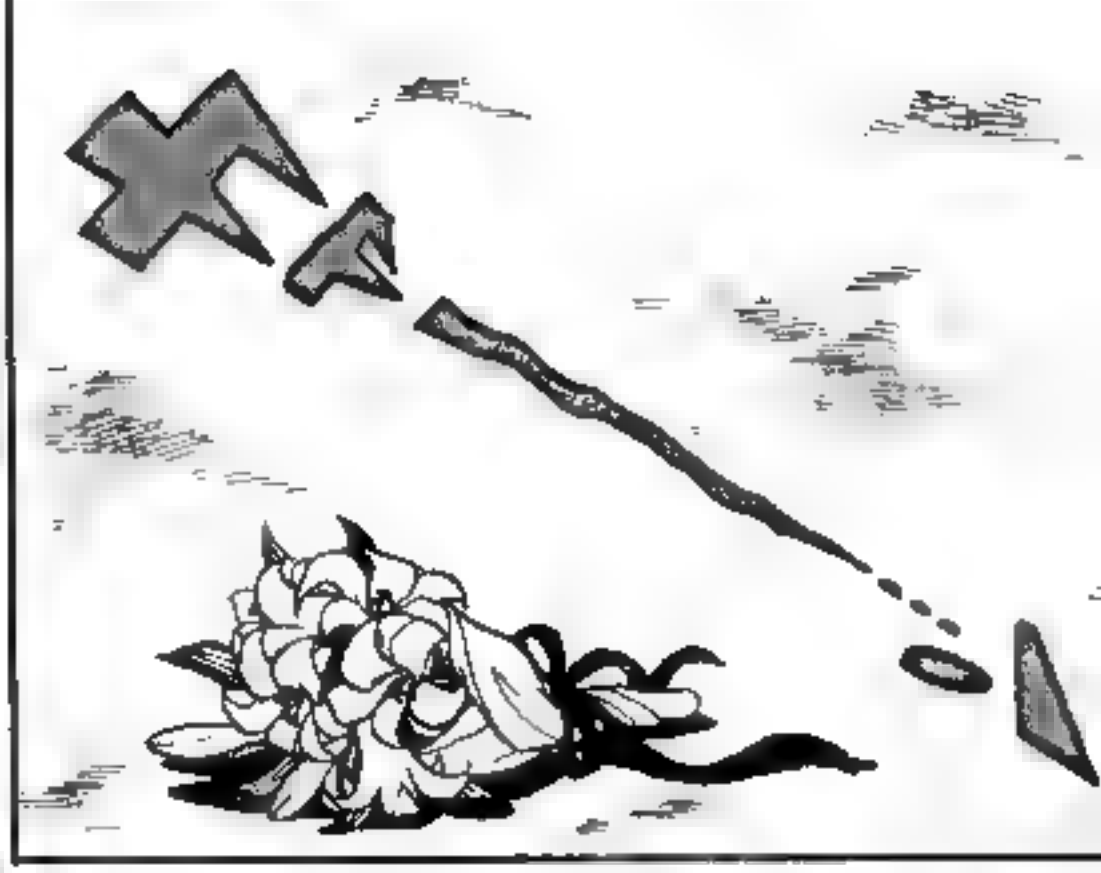
OH RIGHT, HE PASSED AWAY RECENTLY, DIDN'T HE...

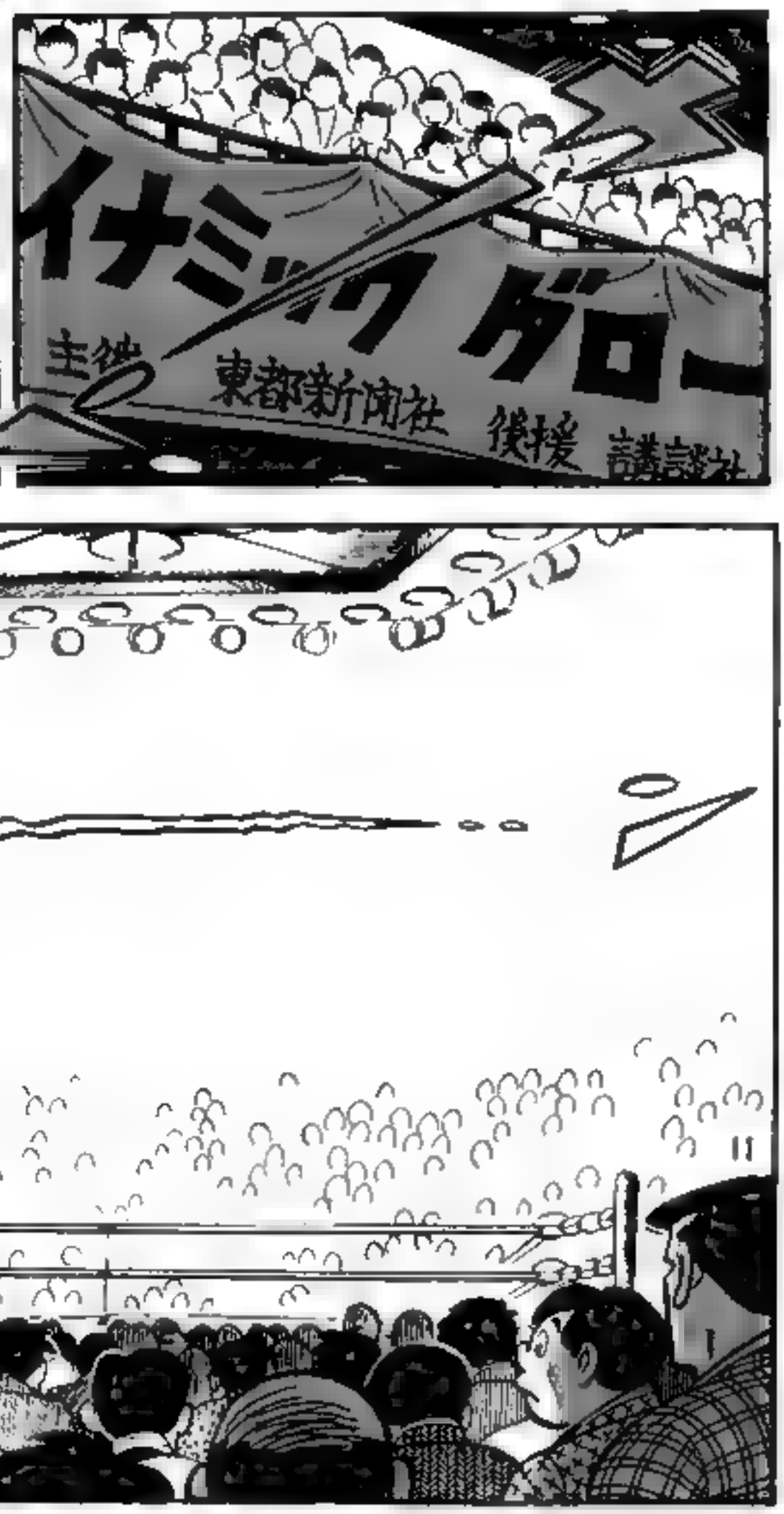
.....

YEAH..

HEY, STAND UP.

R-RIGHT...

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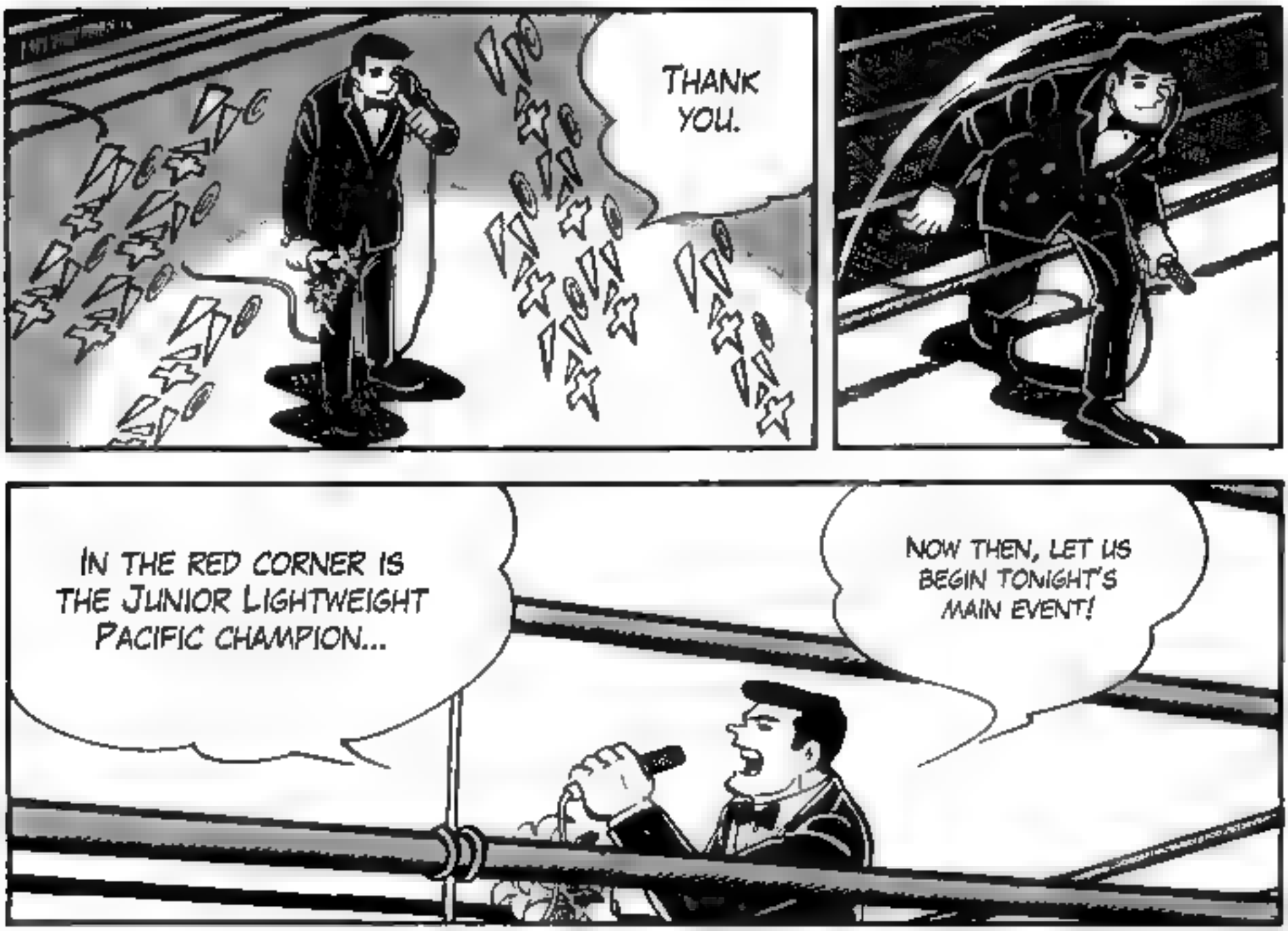
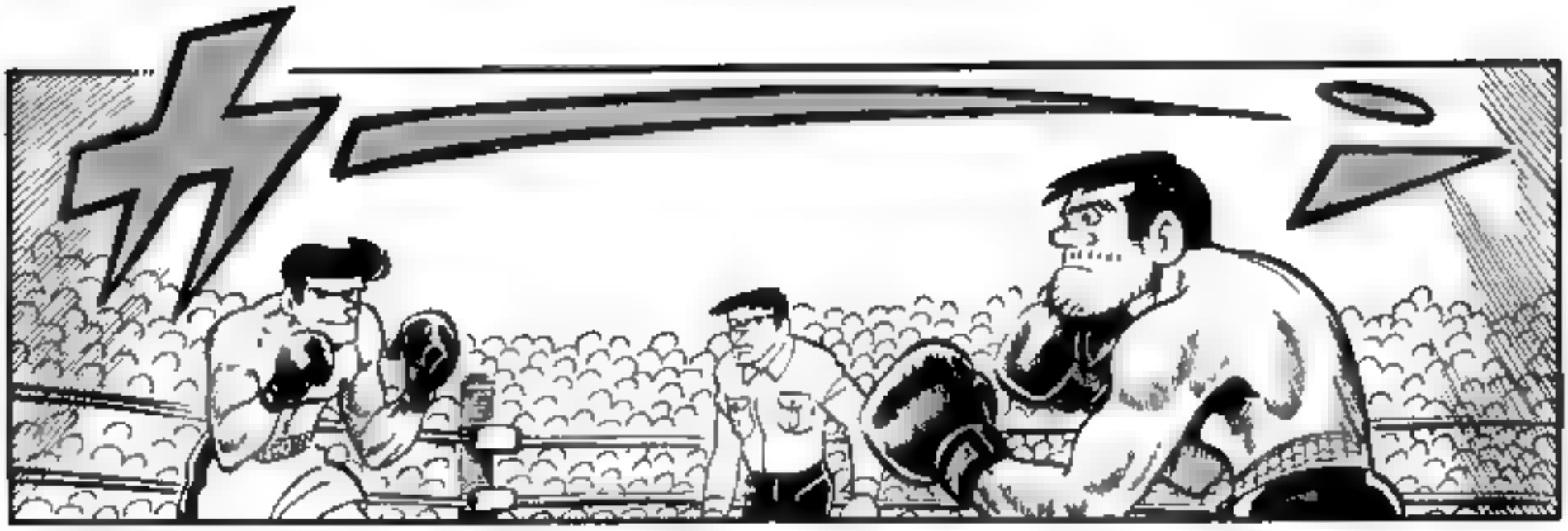
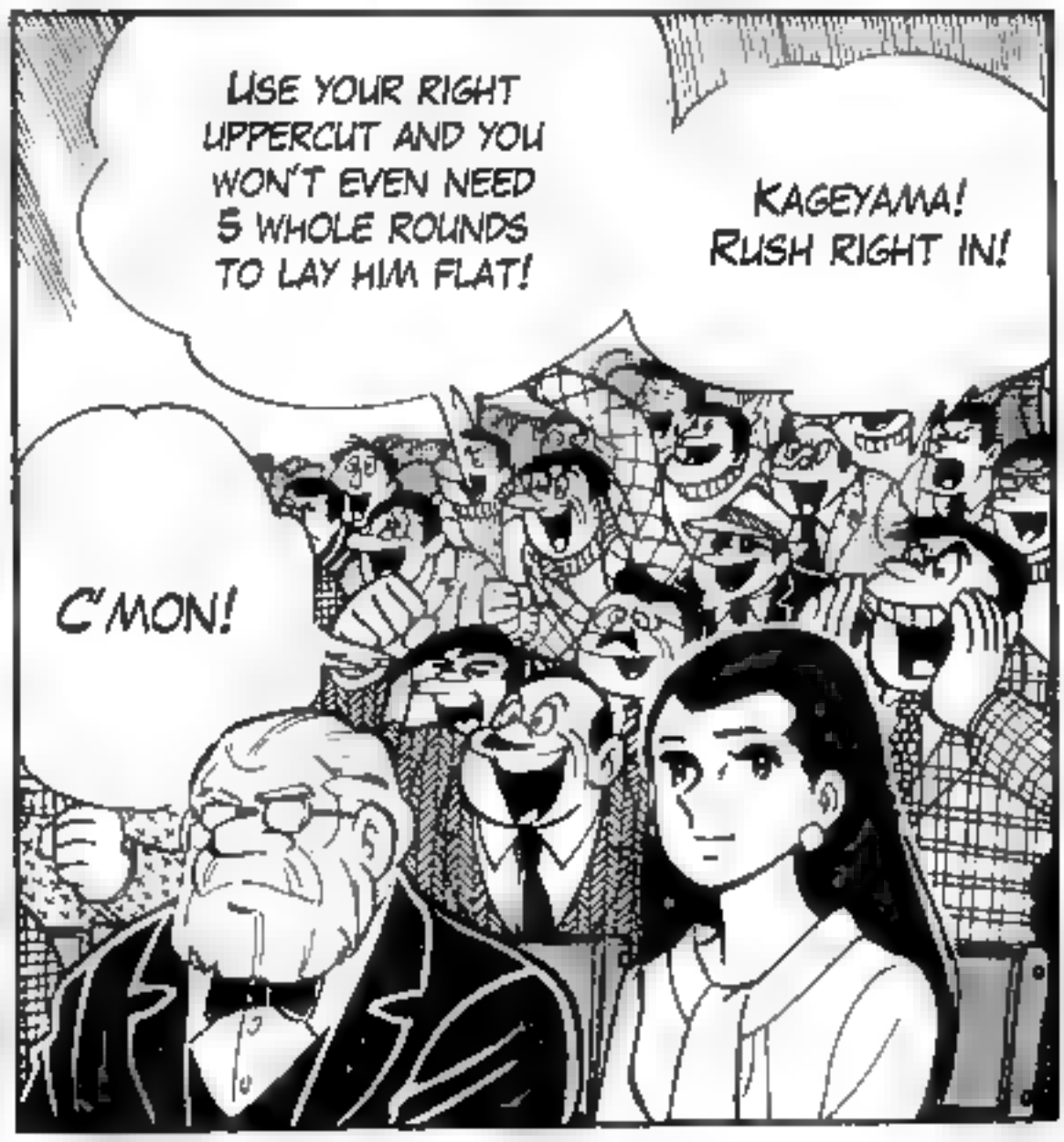

THANK YOU.
IN THE RED CORNER IS THE JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHT PACIFIC CHAMPION...
NOW THEN, LET US BEGIN TONIGHT'S MAIN EVENT!

WE CAN ACTUALLY SEE A PROPER KO THIS TIME!
QUITE POSSIBLE WITH THAT RIGHT UPPERCUT OF HIS..
I PREDICT KAGEYAMA WILL KNOCK OUT THAT FILIPINO BY AT LEAST THE 5TH ROUND!
WHOO BOY, CAN'T WAIT FOR THIS MATCH TO START!




USE YOUR RIGHT UPPERCUT AND YOU WON'T EVEN NEED 5 WHOLE ROUNDS TO LAY HIM FLAT!
KAGEYAMA! RUSH RIGHT IN!
C'MON!

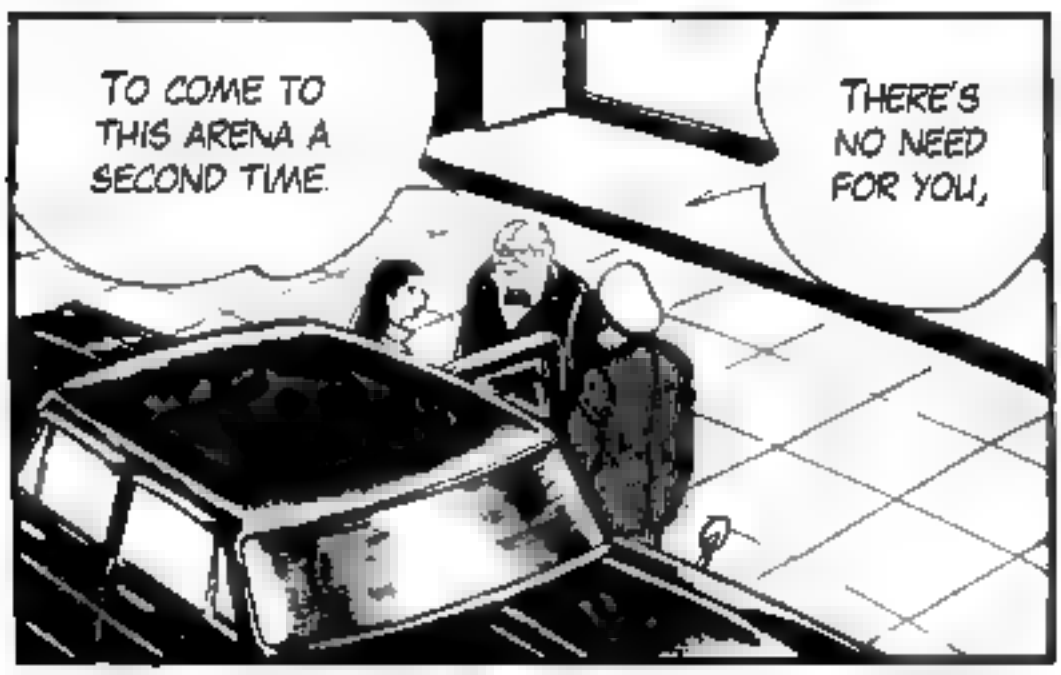
THE PEOPLE IN THE STANDS HAVE ALREADY FORGOTTEN ABOUT RIKIISHI...
IT SEEMS...

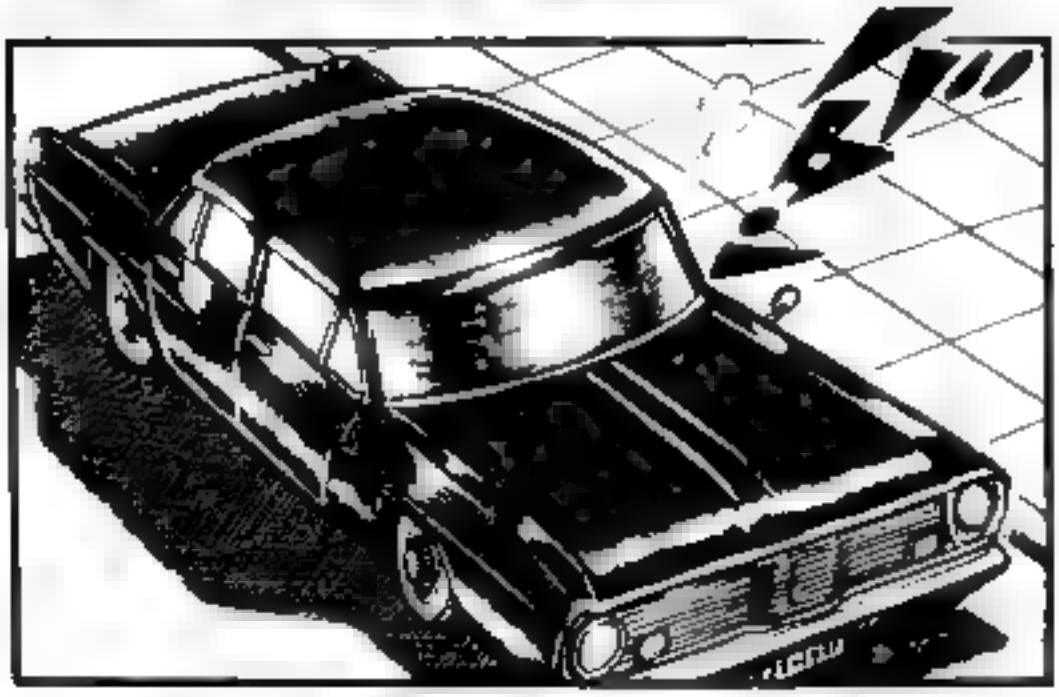
MEANWHILE, THE RING CALLS FOR FRESH BLOOD AND SO THE PATTERN REPEATS...
THAT IS THE REALITY OF THE BOXING WORLD.

LET US GO HOME, YOUKO...

YES.

YOUKO?

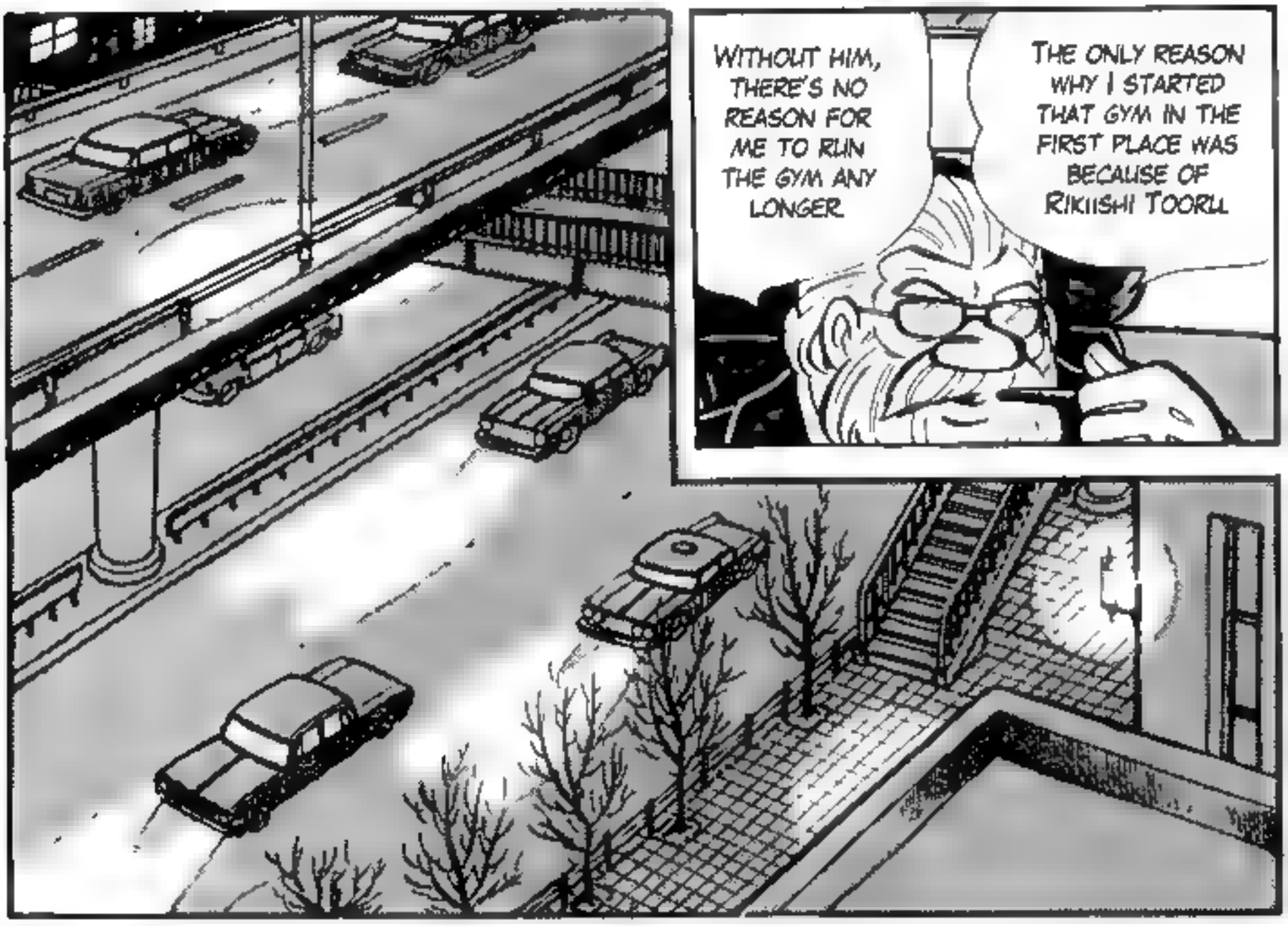

TO COME TO THIS ARENA A SECOND TIME
THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU,



AKUEN

HAVE YOU ALREADY DECIDED ON SHUTTING DOWN THE SHIRAKI GYM?
GRAND-FATHER...

GYM


WITHOUT HIM, THERE'S NO REASON FOR ME TO RUN THE GYM ANY LONGER
THE ONLY REASON WHY I STARTED THAT GYM IN THE FIRST PLACE WAS BECAUSE OF RIKIISHI TOORU

I'D LIKE TO GET OFF HERE.

PLEASE STOP THE CAR.

PARDON?

COULD YOU PLEASE STOP THE CAR HERE, SIR?

YOU CAN GO ON AHEAD BEFORE ME...

I'D LIKE TO THINK ABOUT SOME THINGS ALONE RIGHT NOW, THAT'S ALL.

YOUKO.

YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY SO MUCH FOR MY SAKE, GRANDFATHER

I'M AN ADULT NOW.

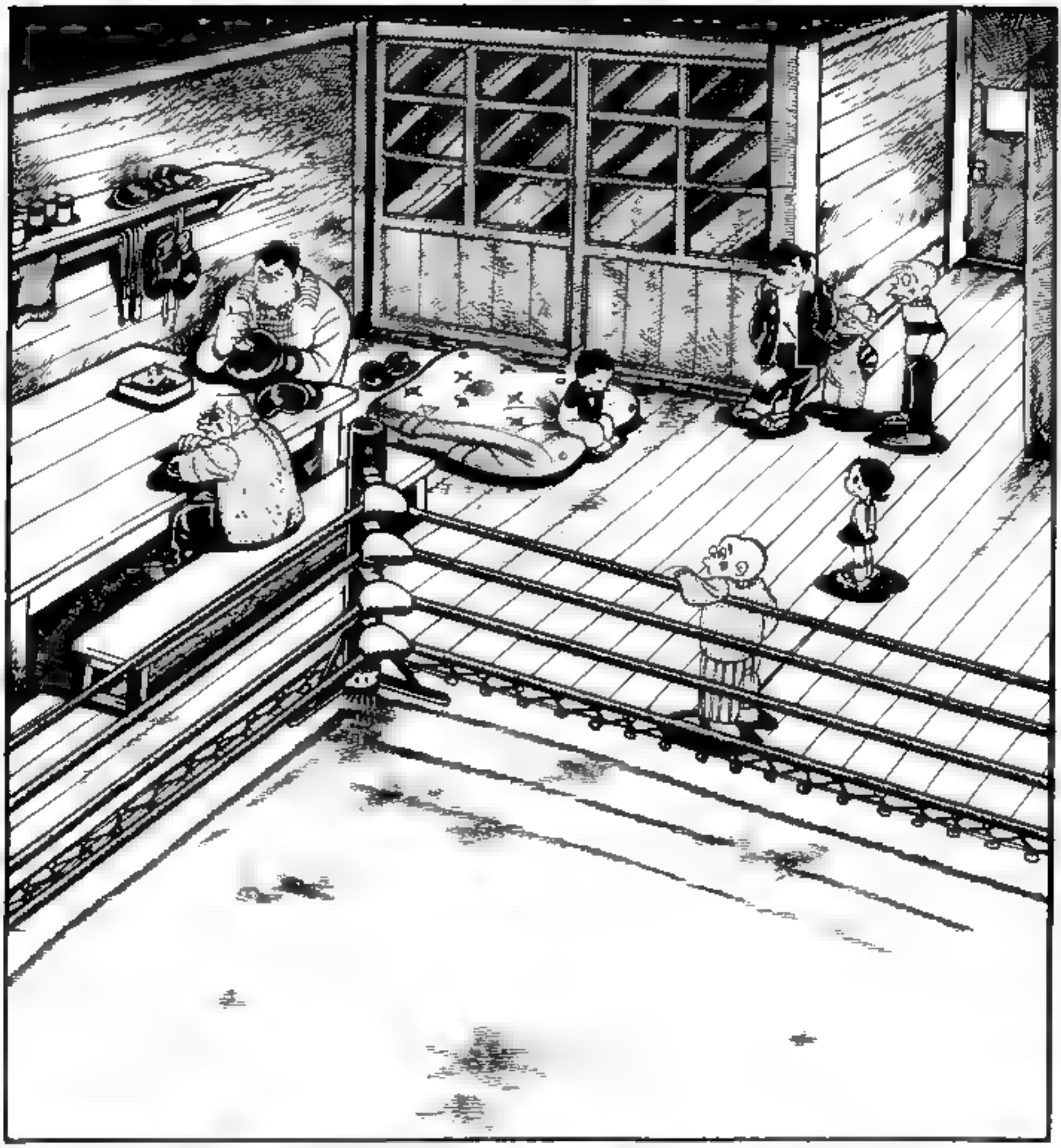
YES, I KNOW.

DWELLING ON THE PAST TOO LONG IS NOT HEALTHY.

JUST REMEMBER WHAT'S DONE IS DONE.

GOOD NIGHT.
ALRIGHT THEN.

AB
Club



WHEN'S BROTHER JOE GONNA GET BACK!?
HEY!
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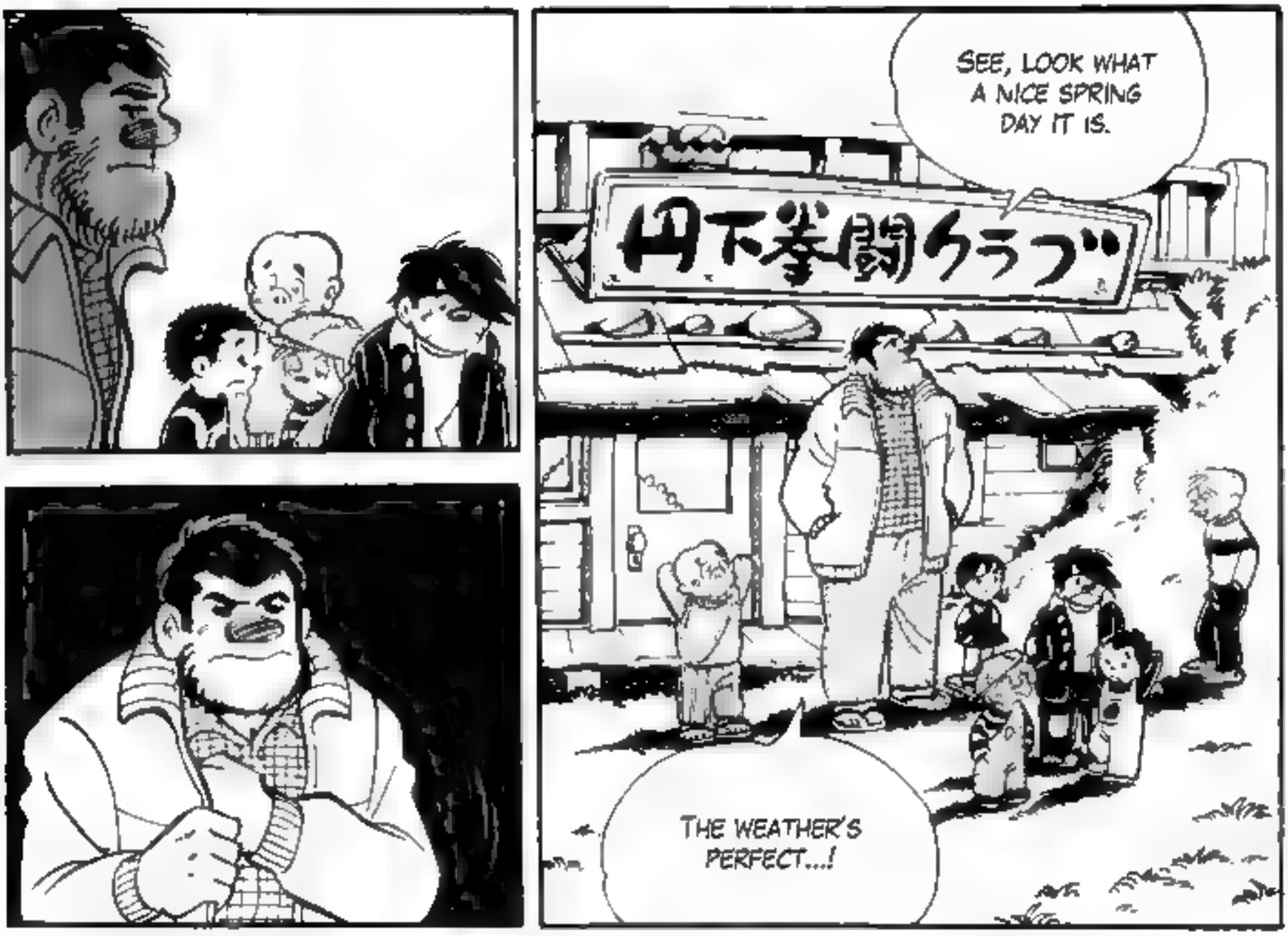
STAYING IN HERE IS A LITTLE...
I THINK YOU KIDS OUGHTA PLAY OUTSIDE INSTEAD...


SEE, LOOK WHAT A NICE SPRING DAY IT IS.
円下拳闘クラブ
THE WEATHER'S PERFECT...!

LET'S GO, GUYS...
GO BUY YOURSELVES A SNACK WITH THIS.
HERE.
NAH, IT'S FINE.
FINE...

JOE...

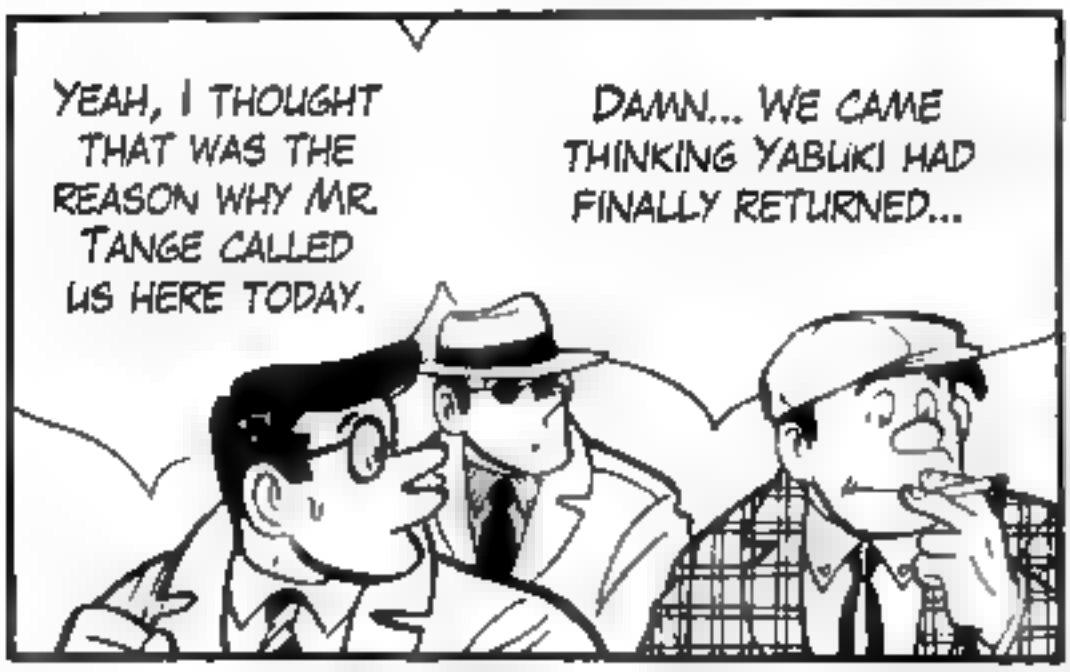
WHERE ARE YOU NOW ..

REPOR-TERS?

. . . .

HE'S STILL MISSING?
WHAT?

D-DO YOU KNOW WHERE JOE MIGHT BE!?


YEAH, I THOUGHT THAT WAS THE REASON WHY MR. TANGE CALLED US HERE TODAY.
DAMN... WE CAME THINKING YABUKI HAD FINALLY RETURNED...

SSH!
MAYBE HE'S GIVEN UP ON YABUKI AND WANTS TO ANNOUNCE HIS RETIREMENT INSTEAD?
OH...
HE CALLED YOU HERE...?
ブッ ブッ ブッ ブッ

A-AH, SO THEY'RE HERE...

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO CALLED THESE REPORTERS HERE, RIGHT?

WAKE UP!

THE REPORTERS ARE HERE TO SEE YOU.

OLD MAN...

SO... WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU...?

WELL...

I HAD A DIRE FAVOUR TO ASK OF YOU.

THANK YOU FOR COMING.

PLEASE, SIT DOWN FIRST

A FAVOUR?

PLEASE! I'M AT MY WIT'S END HERE!

THAT'S WHAT YOU WANTED TO ASK FROM US..?

TELL HIM THAT DANPEI'S WAITING EVERY DAY FOR HIS RETURN...

I'D LIKE YOU TO PUT A SMALL SECTION IN THE NEWSPAPER ASKING JOE TO COME BACK FROM WHEREVER HE IS RIGHT NOW.

BUT I THINK YOU MIGHT BE BETTER OFF JUST GIVING UP ON HIM.

SORRY IF THIS SOUNDS A LITTLE RUDE,

WHAT!?

. . . .

YOU STILL HAVEN'T GIVEN UP ON YABUKI THEN, HUH.

YOU...

YES, WE ALL THINK YOU SHOULD JUST GIVE UP ON HIM.

AS TALENTED OF A BOXER HE IS, HE JUST CAN'T SEEM TO RECOVER FROM THE SHOCK OF KILLING A MAN.

I AGREE...

. . . .

TRUE.

I HAVE TO SAY, THERE HASN'T BEEN ANOTHER BOXER TO RILE UP THE BOXING FANS IN JAPAN AS MUCH AS HE DID.

WELL...

. . . .

HE AND RIKIISHI TURNED THAT BOXING RING INTO A "SQUARE JUNGLE OF DEATH." IT'S A SHAME THAT THEIR FIRST FIGHT TOGETHER WOULD ALSO BE THEIR LAST.

HE REALLY WAS CUT OUT TO BE A BOXER..

WE REPORTERS WERE ALL LOOKING FORWARD TO HOW HE'D DEVELOP TOO.

YABUKI JOE WAS A REAL RARE DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH.

LOOK, I SYMPATHIZE WITH YOUR FEELINGS.

IT'S NOT TIME FOR HIM TO RETIRE YET..!

P-PLEASE STOP IT WITH THAT TALK...

JUST AS IT TAKES LONGER TO RECOVER THE HARDER ONE THROWS A PUNCH, AN INCIDENT AS TRAGIC AS RIKIISHI'S DEATH WILL TAKE LONGER TO REGAIN BALANCE.

THAT'S ONLY BECAUSE THE INCIDENT WAS *THAT* TRAUMATIC.

HE JUST WENT UP AND DISAPPEARED WITHOUT A TRACE...!

BUT FACE IT, YOUR PRECIOUS DIAMOND HASN'T EVEN BOTHERED TO CONTACT YOU...

THIS MUCH ISN'T ANYWHERE ENOUGH TO BE THE DEATH OF HIM!

MY JOE AIN'T YOUR AVERAGE JOE!

YEAH..

AREN'T YOU BEING A LITTLE TOO OPTIMISTIC THOUGH?

SO TO GIVE UP ON HIM SO SOON WOULD BE THE REAL TRAGEDY...!

TULI WAS RANKED JUST BELOW HIM IF I RECALL CORRECTLY...

BACK WHEN SHIRAI YOSHI WAS WORLD CHAMPION,

IT'S LIKE WITH JAKE TULI.

I KNOW IT'S HARD TO GIVE UP ON JOE'S NATURAL INSTINCT FOR FIGHTING, BUT BEING SO STUBBORN ABOUT IT MIGHT HAVE THE OPPOSITE EFFECT, YOU KNOW.

SIGH.

AND EVEN THOUGH HE TRIED TO CONTINUE HIS BOXING CAREER, HIS BODY HAD WASTED AWAY TO JUST SKIN AND BONES.

AFTERWARDS, HE SUFFERED FROM SEVERE NEUROSIS,

DURING ONE MATCH, TULI ACCIDENTALLY KILLED AN ENGLISH BOXER.

IN ANY CASE,

I WOULDN'T EXACTLY CALL THAT SOUTH AFRICAN BOXER ANOTHER JOE, BUT THE TWO ARE DEFINITELY COMPARABLE IN TERMS OF WILDNESS AND NATURAL INSTINCT.

RIGHT,

THEN LET ME BRING UP AN EXAMPLE TOO!

SO WHAT... YOU WANT TO SAY THE SAME WOULD HAPPEN TO JOE IF HE CONTINUED?

THANKS TO THAT, SHIRAI COULD AVOID FIGHTING TULI IN HIS PRIME AND THEREBY HOLD ONTO HIS TITLE. SOME EVEN SAID THAT THIS ACCIDENT HAD SAVED SHIRAI'S LIFE.

5 YEARS LATER, RAMOS KILLED DAVEY MOORE IN THE EXACT SAME WAY AS JOE KILLED RIKIISHI!

IN ONE MATCH HELD IN HAVANA, HE KO'D JOSE BLANCO IN 8 ROUNDS. BLANCO PASSED AWAY THE NEXT DAY DUE TO INJURIES HE SUSTAINED.

DO YOU GENTS REMEMBER THE CUBAN BOXER SUGAR RAMOS?

.....

IN FACT, HE FOUGHT WELL ENOUGH TO EASILY KNOCK OUT MITSUNORI, WHO WE JAPANESE BELIEVED WAS THE STRONGEST IN THE EAST!

BUT HE OVERCAME THE SHOCK FROM BOTH INCIDENTS!

THE ODDS AREN'T REALLY STACKED IN YOUR FAVOUR.

A RECOVERY CHANCE OF 10% OR LESS...

ONLY ONE WOULD MANAGE TO COME OUT OF IT OKAY.

RAMOS IS THE EXCEPTION, NOT THE NORM. OUT OF EVERY 10 BOXERS WHO ACCIDENTALLY KILL THEIR OPPONENTS,

EVEN SO...

WE'RE NOT GETTING THROUGH TO HIM..

JOE IS THAT 10%!

N-NO, WAIT-

EXCUSE US.

LISTEN, WE'RE QUITE BUSY WITH OTHER THINGS TO REPORT SO...

AH-

ABOUT ASKING JOE TO RETURN, I MEAN...

C-COULD YOU AT LEAST DO ME THAT FAVOUR?

JOE!

I'M RIGHT HERE.

NO NEED FOR THAT.

J-JOE...

HEH.

WHERE WERE YOU ALL THIS TIME!?

W-WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU!?

Y-YOU WERE BEATEN BY A FOOD STAND OWNER?

ドン

I'VE BEEN IN THE HOSPITAL SINCE THEN.

I GOT INTO A FIGHT WITH SOME GUY RUNNING AN ODEN-STAND AND GOT BEATEN PRETTY BAD...

LUCKILY FOR ME, SOME GUY PASSING BY SPOTTED ME AND TOOK ME TO THE HOSPITAL.

...

BLACKED OUT BEFORE I COULD LAND A PUNCH...

THAT'S RIGHT.

SEE, I THINK A RETIREMENT WOULD BE BEST...

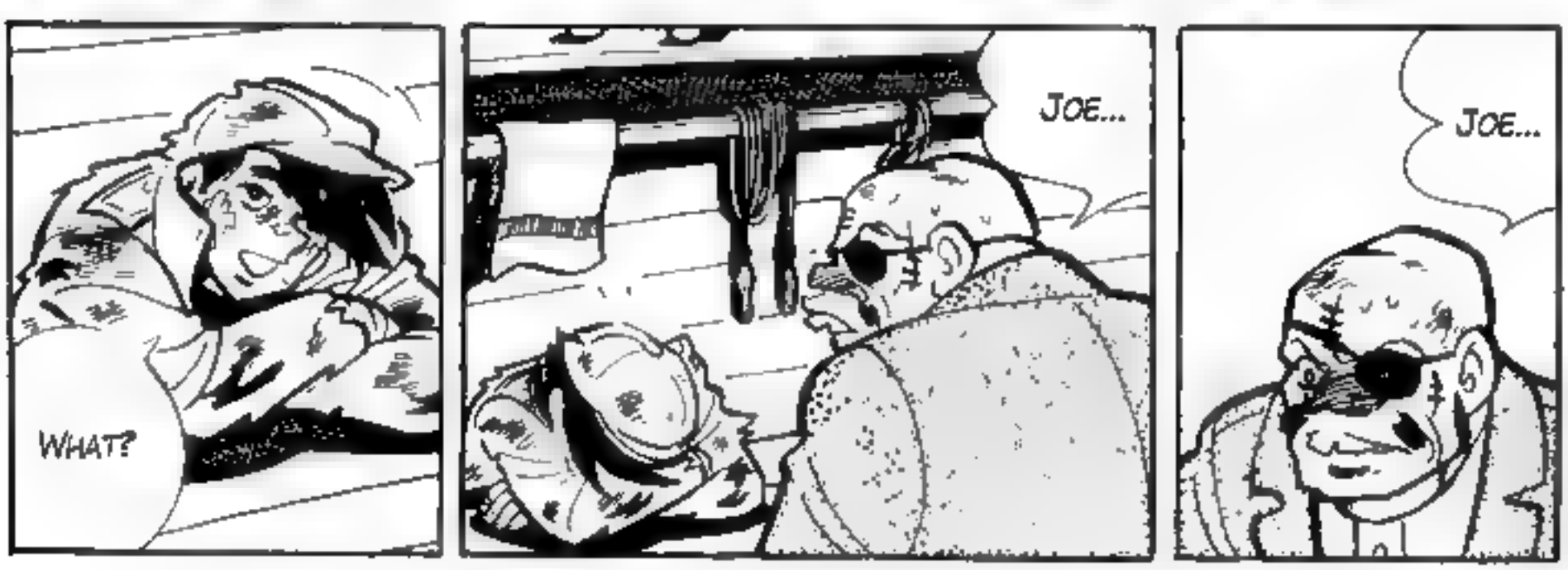
PATHETIC, AIN'T IT...?

SHUT YOUR DAMN MOUTHS AND GET THE HELL OUTTA HERE!

A PART OF HIM DIED ON THAT NIGHT ALONG WITH RIKIISHI.

HE'S JUST AN EMPTY SHELL OF WHAT HE USED TO BE.

PANT
PANT
PANT
I SAID GET OUT!

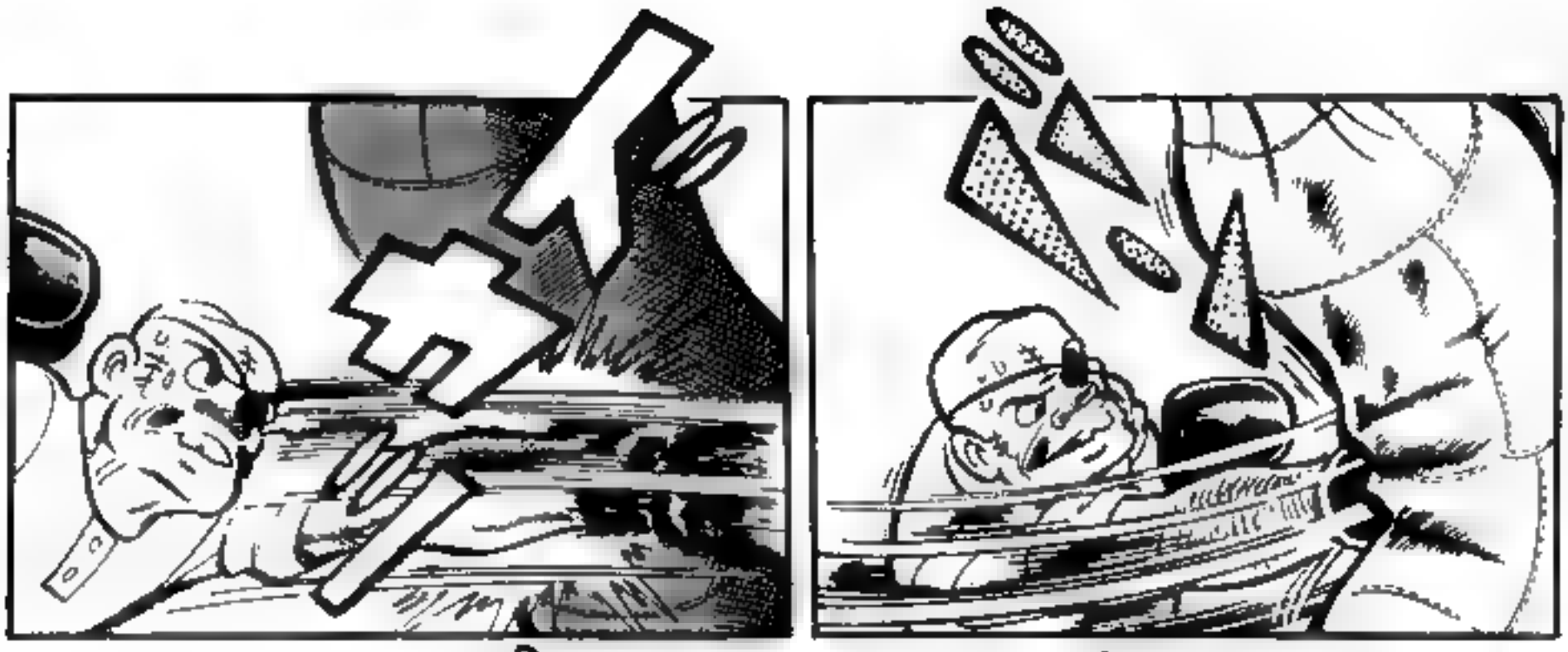

WHAT?
JOE...
JOE...

NO, IT'S NOTHING...

I...

OLD MAN?

ドン!



...
CAN'T I GET A MOMENT'S PEACE!?
CUT THAT SHIT OUT!

GONNA BAIT ME BACK INTO BOXING, HUH?
THE HELL ARE YOU TRYIN' TO PULL?

WELL IT'S NOT GONNA WORK.

I'VE ALREADY GIVEN UP ON BOXING.

EVEN SO, WE DESPERATELY AIMED FOR A BETTER TOMORROW BY BELIEVING IN NOTHING BUT BOXING.

YOU AND I ARE NOTHING BUT PIECES OF TRASH TO THIS WORLD AT LARGE...

HAVE YOU REALLY DIED AS THE OTHERS SAY...?

JOE...

"!?"

UU..

WHERE'RE YOU GOING, JOE?

ARE YOU SAYING... THAT THERE'S NO TOMORROW FOR US?

SNIFF

ARE WE TO SINK BACK TO THE USELESS PIECE OF SHITS WE ARE...?

SNIFF

LOOKS LIKE I MISJUDGED YOU BIG TIME!

HMPH!

JOE!

I THOUGHT YOU HAD SOME BALLS!

DESPITE EVERYTHING, I ALWAYS THOUGHT YOU HAD A SPINE AT THE VERY LEAST!

WHAT'S IT TO YOU WHERE I GO!?

PATHETIC!

CRYIN' LIKE A LIL' BITCH...

MAKES ME WANNA THROW UP!

I'M GONNA QUIT BOXING...

I KILLED RIKIISHI...

OH, WOE IS ME!

BUT LOOK AT YOU NOW!

HEH.

AREN'T I RIGHT?

BECAUSE OF YOU, HE DIED A WORTHLESS DOG'S DEATH!

EVEN THAT RIKIISHI IS AN IDIOT FOR FIGHTING YOU AND DYING.

DON'T LET RIKIISHI'S DEATH GO TO WASTE...

JOE...

...

NOT BAD FOR A WEAK-WILLED GUY WHO COWARDLY SNEAKS OUT AT NIGHT FOR BOWL OF NOODLES!

NEVER THOUGHT YOU COULD SAY SUCH THINGS, NISHI.

STOP IT... QUIT TRYIN' TO TALK LIKE DANPEI...

FOR EVERYONE IN THIS TOWN TOO! THEY'RE ALL CROSSING THAT BRIDGE OF TEARS ALONG WITH YOU!

AND NOT JUST FOR HIM EITHER!

YOU HAVE TO FIGHT ON FOR HIS SAKE!

COME ON!

COULD NEVER UNDERS-TAND MY P-

A GUY WHO CAN'T EVEN HANDLE THE PAIN OF DIETING,

HEH.

AHH-

I AIN'T GONNA BOTHER WASTING MY ENERGY ON YOU.

NO NEED TO WET YOUR PANTS.

KI

THAT

DOESN'T MEAN...

ドサッ

YOU CAN PUSH YOUR LUCK!

ドガッ

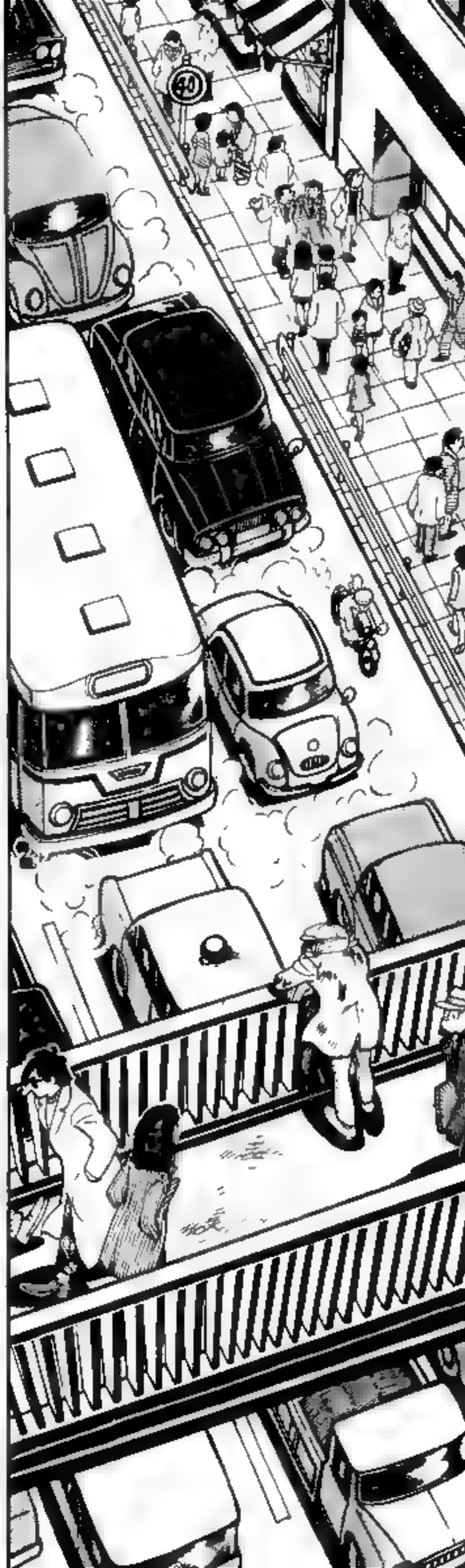
ぬぉ!

HE'S STILL ALIVE!

JOE'S NOT DEAD YET...

AND THAT DETERMINED FIGHTING FACE!

THAT POWERFUL STRAIGHT,



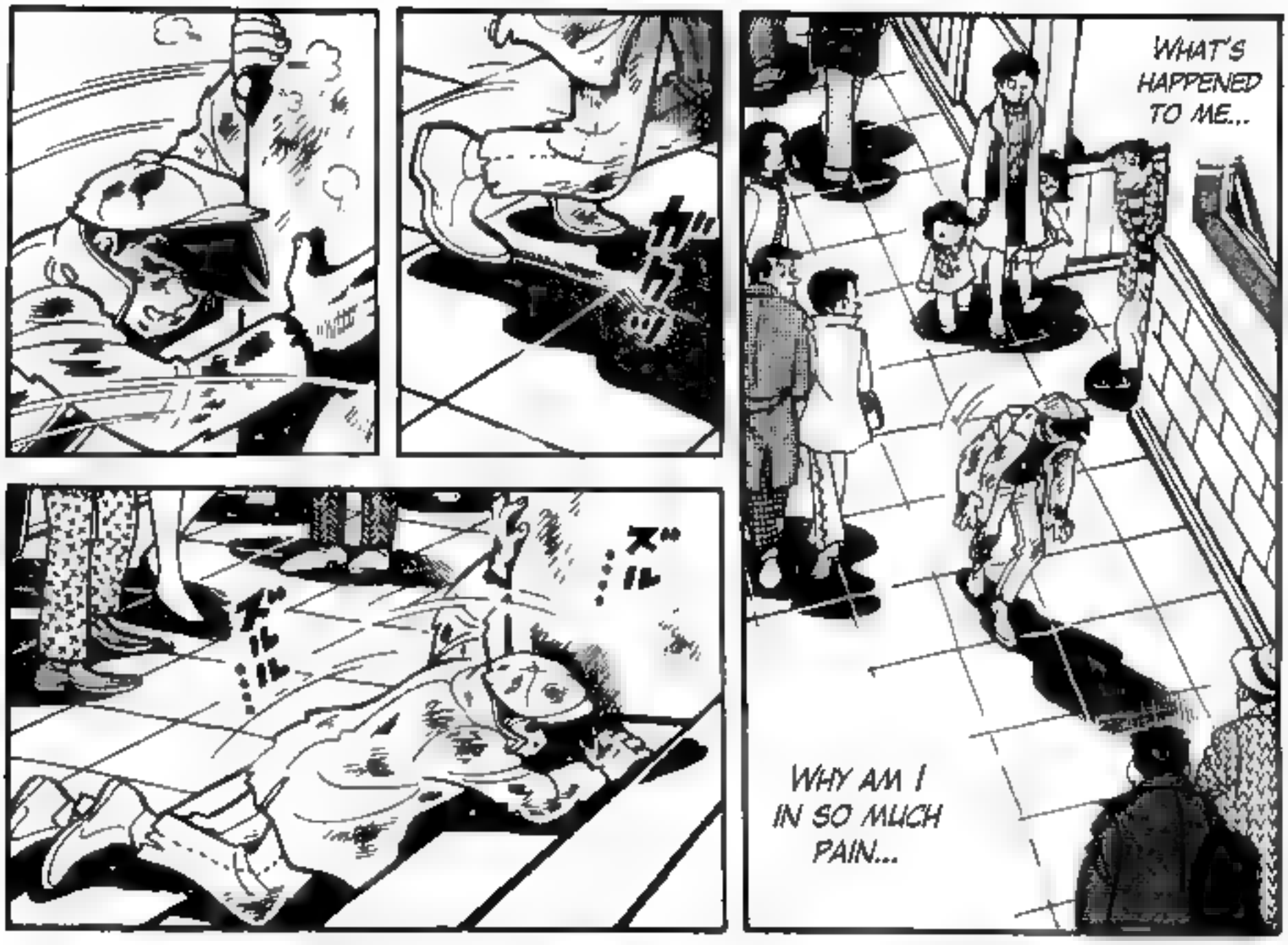
UGH...
WHAT A PAIN...

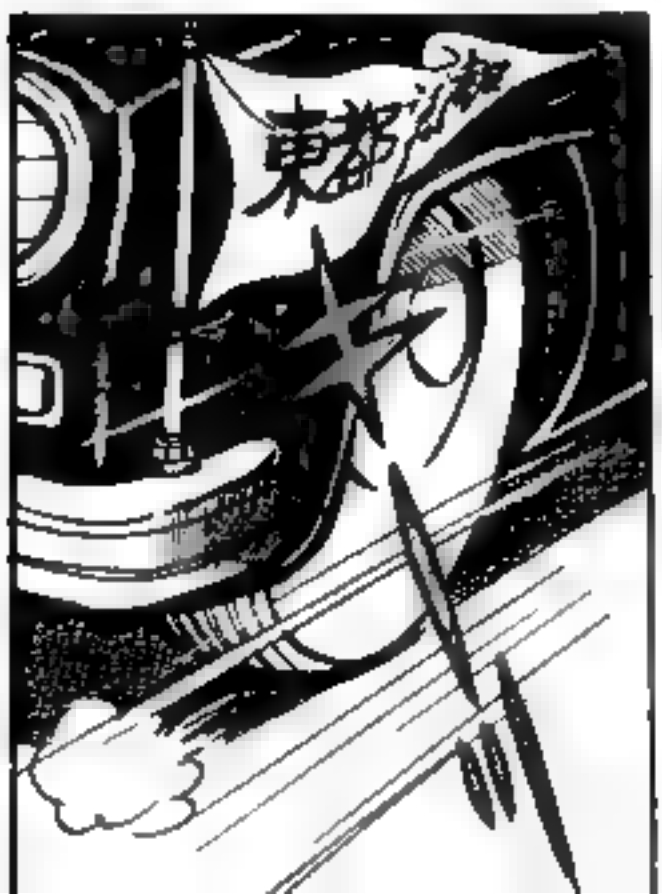
AD

EVEN IF I'M DOING NOTHING ELSE,

EVEN BREATHING IS... SO DAMN HARD TO DO...
NO,

BUT WALKING AROUND MINDLESSLY...


WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME...
WHY AM I IN SO MUCH PAIN...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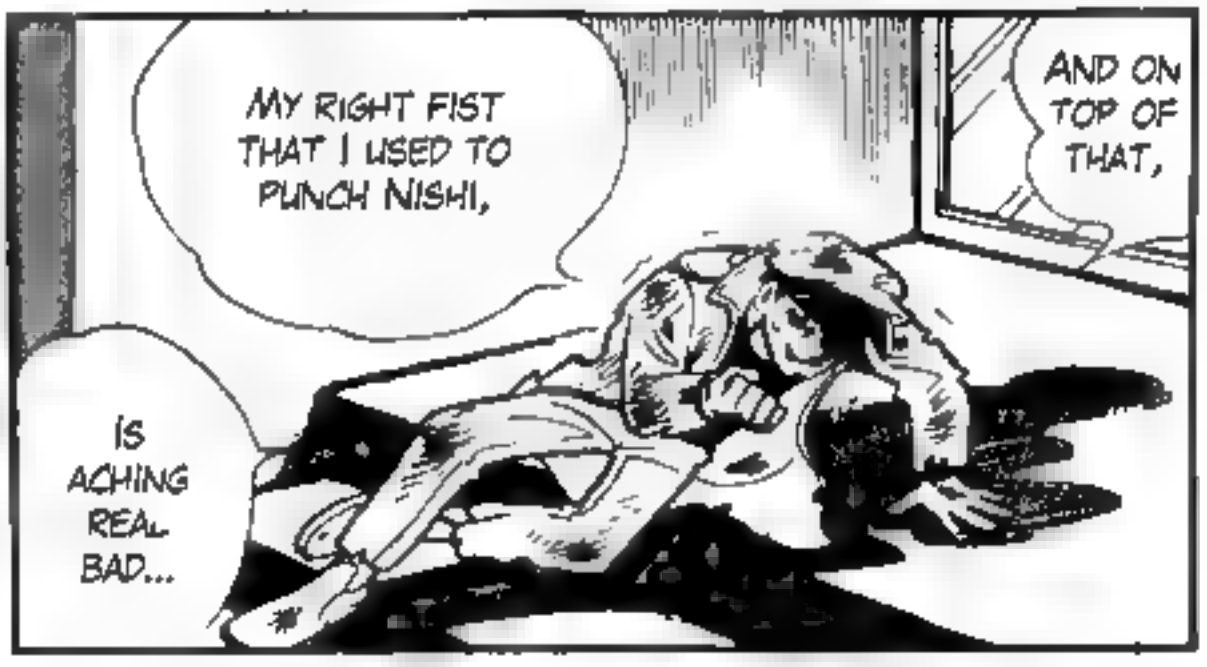
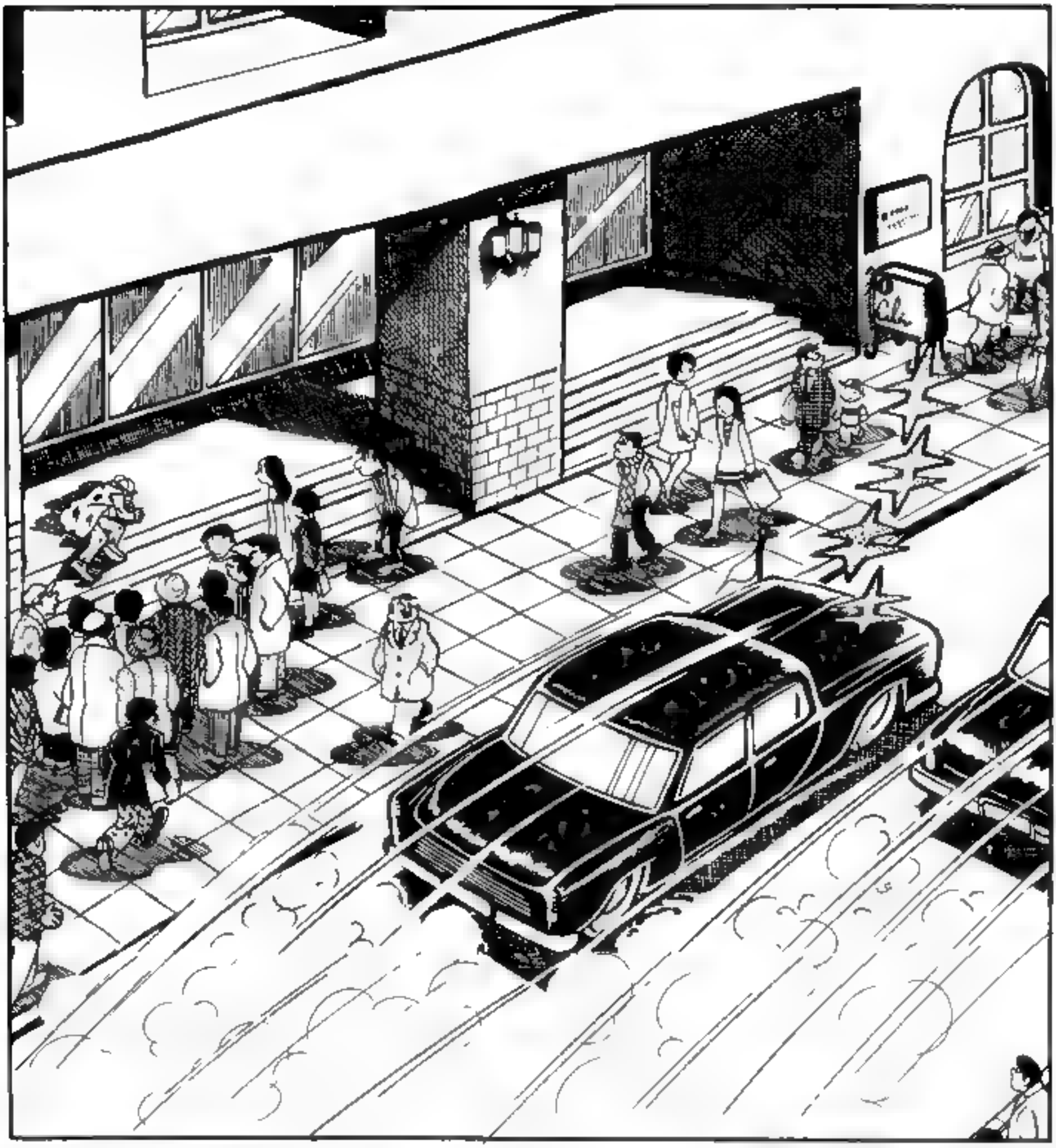
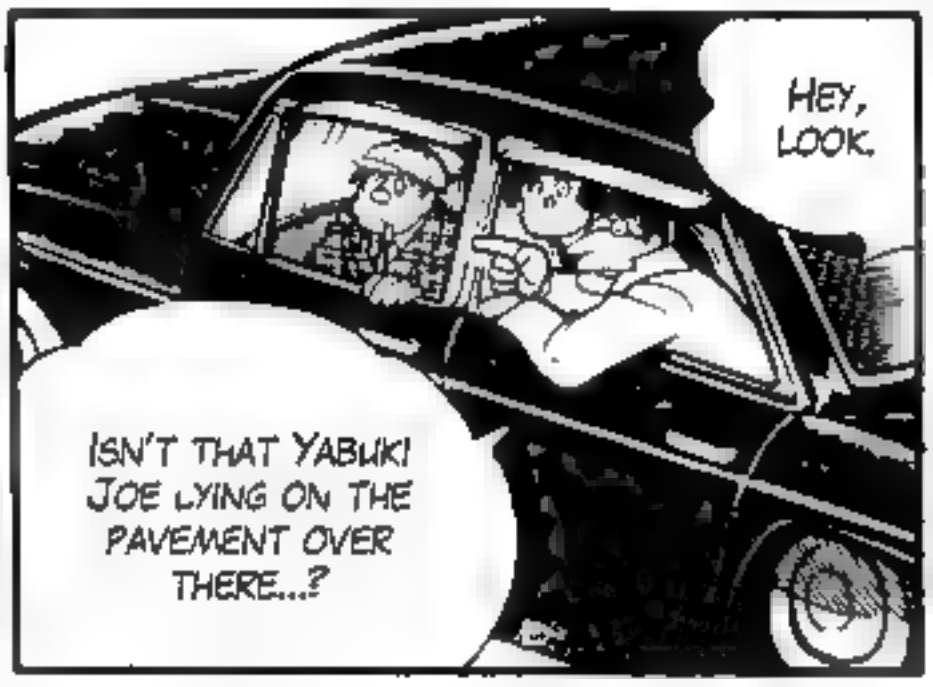
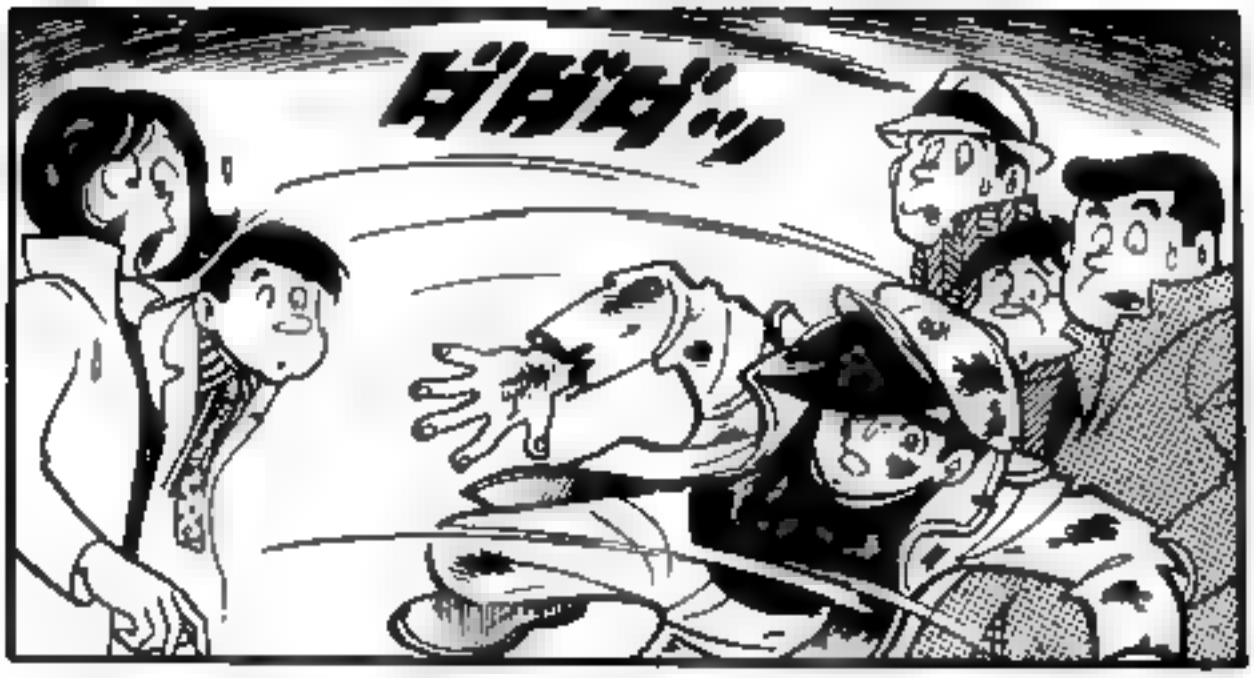

MY RIGHT FIST THAT I USED TO PUNCH NISHI,
AND ON TOP OF THAT,
IS ACHING REAL BAD...



THAT IS HIM.
YOU'RE RIGHT.


HEY, LOOK.
ISN'T THAT YABUKI JOE LYING ON THE PAVEMENT OVER THERE...?


ガバガバッ

HE LOOKS LIKE A PUPPET THAT HAD ITS STRINGS CUT OFF.
MAN,
.....

THIS MIGHT BE SOMETHING WORTH REPORTING?
DON'T YOU THINK,

ALRIGHT, LET'S TAIL HIM THEN!

HMM, MIGHT BE DECENT SHOCK DOCUMENTARY MATERIAL.

ONCE-FAMOUS BOXER NOW REDUCED TO SHAMBLES AFTER THE ACCIDENTAL MURDER OF HIS OPPONENT...

HAHA.

50

BETTER NOT MISS THIS CHANCE FOR A PHOTO.

I'M ON IT, I'M ON IT.

スナック

ぐぅ

あや

ぱぱぱぱ…

カタカタ

BAR

COME ON IN IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR DRINKS OR FOOD!

OUR ESTABLISHMENT REQUIRES NO TIPPING AND UNTIL 8 O'CLOCK, A DRINK AND A BOWL OF SNACKS CAN BE ORDERED FOR THE LOW PRICE OF 300 YEN!

WEL-COME!

OH, COME ON IN AND HAVE A DRINK WITH ME, WON'T YOU?

SORRY, WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF WORK RIGHT NOW...

IT'S STILL TOO EARLY TO HEAD HOME!

THEN YOU BETTER COME RIGHT AFTER!

HEY, YOU YOUNG MEN OVER THERE!

OUR SHOP'S HAVING A SPECIAL DEAL TODAY, FOLKS!

BEAR
GUYS, HE WENT OVER THERE! HURRY UP SO WE DON'T LOSE HIM!
TALK ABOUT PUSHY..

AH!
TOY
UMM...
UHH.
O-OH HI...

YEAH, T-TALK ABOUT A REAL COINCIDENCE, EH? HAHA... HAHAHA...
D-DIDN'T THINK WE'D RUN INTO YOU HERE, Y-YABUKI..

WE DIDN'T MEAN TO. . WE LET OUR REPORTER'S INSTINCT GET THE BETTER OF US FOR A SEC, THAT'S ALL.

A-ALRIGHT, WE'RE SORRY FOR TAILING YOU.

UHH.

WE... WE WERE JUST UMM...

THE FILM, YOU IDIOT, THE FILM!

STOP BLABBERING AND JUST GIVE HIM THE FILM!

QUICKLY!

I DON'T...

CARE ABOUT YOUR FILM OR WHATEVER.

JUST LEND ME SOME MONEY.

T-THERE, WE'RE GOOD NOW, R-RIGHT..?

S-SORRY AGAIN.

WE REALLY DIDN'T MEAN IT..

I PROMISE I'LL PAY YOU BACK.

JUST A LITTLE WILL DO.

WHAT? M-MONEY...?

.....

WHAT... MIGHT I ASK YOU'LL BE NEEDING IT FOR...?

THANKS..

NOT A WHOLE LOT BUT THIS MUCH SHOULD DO, RIGHT?

HERE.

FINE, FORGET IT.

YOU GOING FOR A DRINK?

SO, UHH...

W-WAIT! I'LL LEND YOU MONEY SO JUST HOLD ON!

AHH-

AM I RIGHT?

AND YOU JUST WANT TO FORGET ABOUT RIKIISHI, BOXING, OR WHATEVER BY HAVING A NICE DRINK.

RIGHT?

YOU'RE SUFFERING REAL BAD RIGHT NOW

I'LL BET...

I'M GUESSING YOU DON'T HAVE MUCH EXPERIENCE DRINKING AT ACTUAL BARS.

LOOK,

DUDE, I THINK YOU SHOULD CUT IT O-

DON'T WORRY, I GOT THIS.

R-RIGHT

RIGHT, GUYS?

IF YOU'D LIKE, WE CAN SHOW YOU AROUND SOME GOOD PLACES FOR A DRINK.

IF A DRINK IS ALL YOU WANT, THEN LET ME JUST WARN YOU TO AVOID THESE PLACES.

WE'VE GOT NO INTENTION OF LEADING YOU AROUND FOR A SCOOP OR ANYTHING.

DON'T GET ME WRONG NOW.

CAN'T SAY THIS OUT TOO LOUD NEAR THEM, BUT A DRINK OR TWO AT ONE OF THESE PLACES IS GONNA LEAVE YOU BROKE WITHIN NO TIME.

HOW ABOUT IT? I'VE GOT JUST THE PLACE IN MIND.

WELL?

I'M SURE YOU'LL EASILY BE ABLE TO FORGET ABOUT YOUR WORRIES THERE.

THE PLACE MIGHT BE A LITTLE LOUD BUT IT'S GOT A REAL LIVELY ATMOSPHERE.

YOU'VE GIVEN US REPORTERS A LOT OF GOOD MATERIAL BACK IN YOUR BOXING DAYS,

CAN'T JUST STAND BY AND WATCH YOU SUFFER NOW, CAN I?

SO JUST THINK OF THIS AS US RETURNING THE FAVOUR.

SO WE'RE ALL COOL WITH DITCHING WORK AND ENJOYING A DRINK WITH OUR PAL HERE, RIGHT?

GET IN, GET IN.

SURE, WHATEVER.

O-OK...

HURRY UP AND BRING THE CAR!

GUYS! DON'T JUST STAND THERE!

JUST DRIVE, ALRIGHT?

BARON? BUT THAT PLACE IS...

HEAD FOR BARON.

COME ON, STEP ON THAT PEDAL!

A PLACE LIKE THAT MIGHT ACTUALLY BE FOR THE BETTER.

タカキ

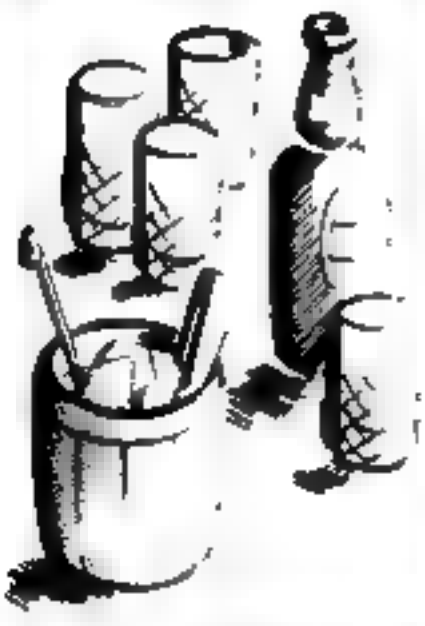
Goula

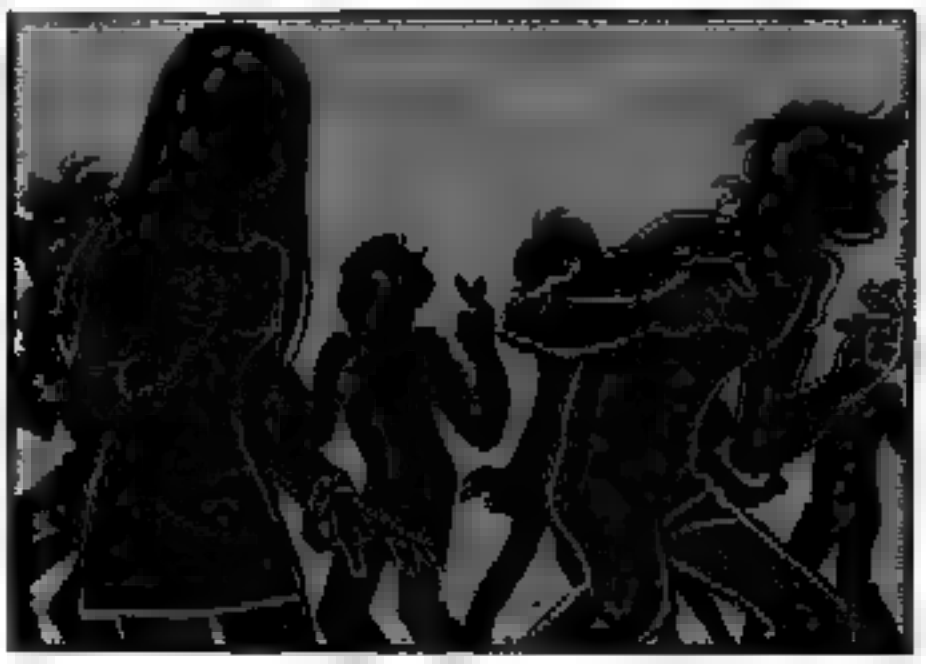
JAZZ AT

DON'CHA THINK?
NOT BAD, EH? A GUY COULD REALLY FORGET ABOUT HIS TROUBLES HERE,

OH, AND SOME ICE TO GO WITH THAT, TOO.
BRING US A BOTTLE OF WHISKEY!
YES, SIR.

WHAT D'YOU WANT?
ANYTHING'S FINE.

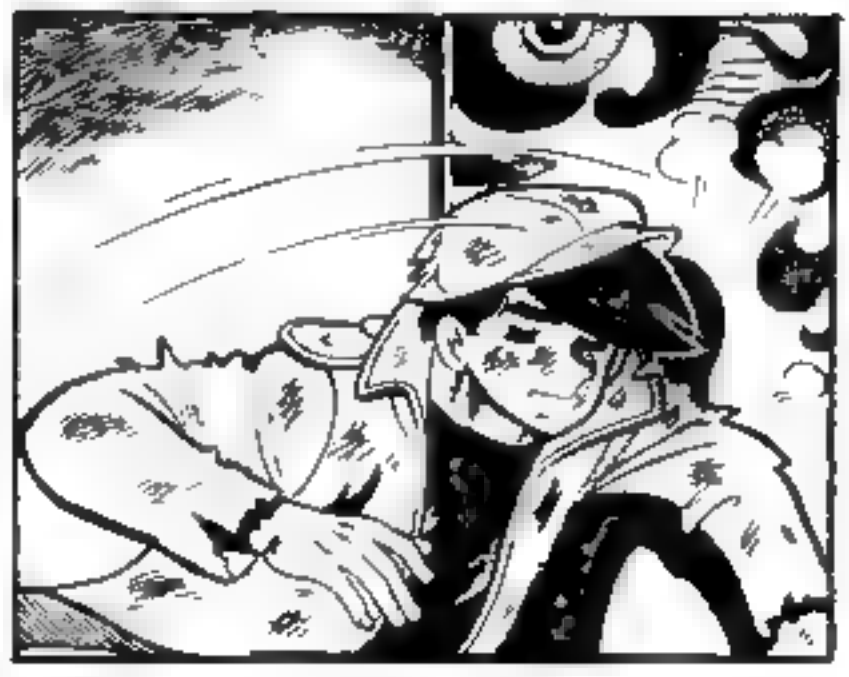




SO WHY'D YOU BRING YABUKI HERE?
I KNOW YOU KNOW THAT SHIRAKI YOUKO FREQUENTS THIS PLACE AS OF LATE...
H-HEY...
ON ONE SIDE, YOU HAVE YABUKI JOE, A MAN REDUCED TO UTTER DESPAIR AND DEPRESSION AFTER THE DEATH OF HIS RIVAL...
A CHANCE ENCOUNTER BETWEEN TWO PEOPLE TRYING TO DESPERATELY FORGET ABOUT RIKIISHI'S DEATH.
YOU GUYS WANTED A SCOOP, DIDN'CHA?

IF THIS ISN'T THE RECIPE FOR SOMETHING BIG, THEN NOTHING IS...!

AND ON THE OTHER SIDE, YOU HAVE SHIRAKI YOUKO, THE WOMAN WHO HELPED TRAIN HIS RIVAL. A WOMAN WHO NOW DANCES THE NIGHT AWAY EVERYDAY SINCE THE INCIDENT.



WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?

NEVER THOUGHT I'D RUN INTO YOU IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...

I WAS DANCING.

AS YOU SAW,

I'VE... COME FOR A DRINK...

I SHOULD ASK YOU WHAT YOU'RE DOING HERE.

BUT NOW, HERE YOU ARE, LOOKING FOR A DRINK AND A GOOD TIME.

JUST A COUPLE MONTHS AGO, YOU WOULDN'T EVEN HAVE DREAMED OF EATING WHAT YOU WANT, MUCH LESS DRINK, WHAT WITH THE STRICT REGIMENT YOU BOXERS ARE PUT THROUGH.

MY, MY, HAVEN'T YOUR FORTUNES IMPROVED?

WELL AREN'T YOU LUCKY?

HA.

WHY DON'T YOU SIT DOWN?

YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE HAVING A HARD TIME STANDING.

A MAN WITH A REAL SPINE...

I THOUGHT YOU WERE A MAN WITH SOME REAL SPIRIT.

WHO'S THAT DIRTY-LOOKING BUM YOUKO'S TALKING TO?

HEY..

YABUKI?

THAT'S YABUKI...!

YOU'RE RIGHT, IT'S YABUKI JOE.

OH. !

YOU KNOW, THE BOXER WHO KILLED RIKIISHI..

I SAW YOU LYING ON THE GROUND WITH YOUR FACE COVERED IN TEARS.

ONE TIME WHEN I WENT TO THE PARK NEAR TANGE GYM,

YOU STILL CAN'T SEEM TO PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER.

BUT IT SEEMS YOU STILL HAVEN'T CHANGED ONE BIT SINCE WINTER.

IF I RECALL, IT WAS SNOWING THAT NIGHT...

...

IF THAT ISN'T A POINTLESS WAY TO DIE, THEN I DON'T KNOW WHAT IS...!

TO THINK HE PUT HIMSELF THROUGH HELL JUST SO HE COULD FIGHT A WORTHLESS MAN WHO CAN NOW BARELY STAND...

RIKIISHI REALLY DID DIE A FOOL'S DEATH...

WHAT, DID YOU FIND A NEW HOBBY NOW THAT YOUR DREAM WAS BROKEN!?

ESPECIALLY NOT TO SOMEONE DANCING WITHOUT A CARE IN THE WORLD!

I'LL BE DAMNED IF I'M LECTURED BY SOMEONE LIKE YOU!

SHUT YOUR TRAP!

YOU CAN DROP DEAD FOR ALL I CARE!

MY DREAM ...?

SPOUTIN' THE SAME RETARDED CRAP LIKE NISHI...

I'M OUTTA HERE!

WAIT!

BAL-

I SAID WAIT, YABUKI!

AND AS A MAN, THE LEAST YOU COULD DO IS STOP BEING SUCH SPOILT CHILD!

I'M A WOMAN AND YOU'RE A MAN!

JUST HOW THE HELL AM I A SPOILT CHILD!?

BALLON

WHAT, YOU STILL GOT BUSINESS WITH ME!?

JUST SHUT UP, ALREADY!

I DON'T INTEND ON COMING UP WITH EXCUSES FOR MY ACTIONS BUT...

SO YOU'VE GOT NO RIGHT TO WASTE YOUR TIME AWAY BY WANDERING AROUND DRUNK AND MAKING UP PATHETIC EXCUSES TO TALK BIG TO OTHERS!

YOU SENT WOLF KANGUSHI INTO AN EARLY RETIREMENT BY SMASHING HIS JAW YOU'VE DRIVEN RIKIISHI TO HIS DEATH. YOU'RE A PROFESSIONAL BOXER WITH A LOT OF BURDENS AND PAST SINS.

I'LL TELL YOU HOW.

YOU HAVE A LOT OF DEBT THAT YOU NEED TO PAY BACK!

WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT,

DON'T YOU HAVE ANY SENSE OF DUTY OR HONOUR AS A MAN!?

ドン!

YOU'VE GOT TO LIVE AND DIE ON THE RING FOR THE SAKE OF WOLF AND RIKIISHI!

SO SNAP OUT OF IT ALREADY!

AND NEITHER WILL I!

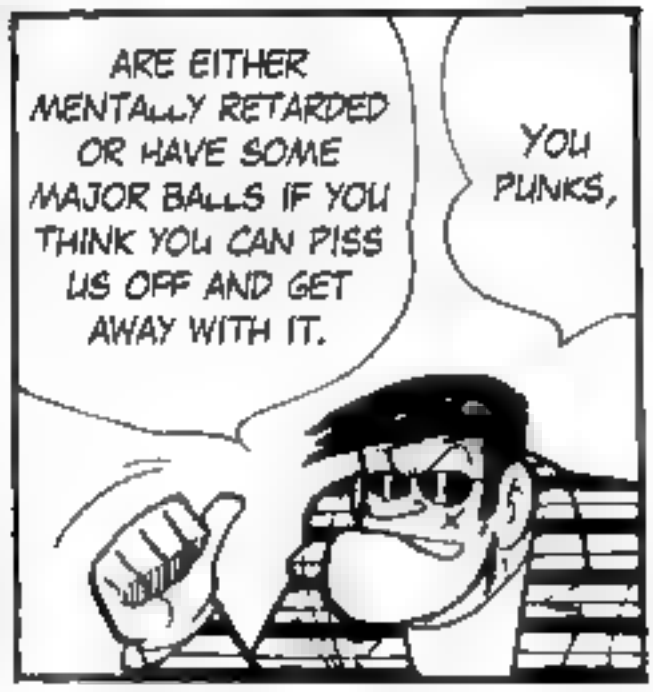
BUT RIKIISHI AND WOLF SHAN'T FORGIVE NOR LET YOU!

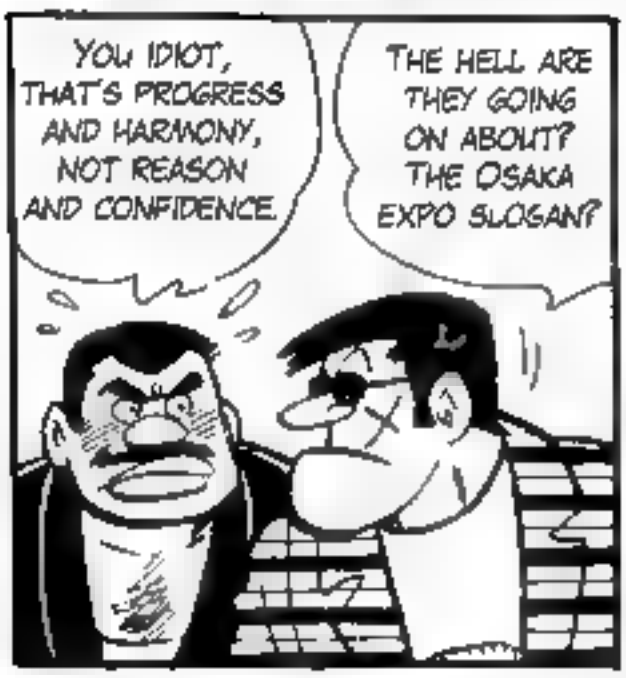
YOU MIGHT HAVE YOUR HEART SET ON ABANDONING THE RING...

店街
店街 吉野
SOME YAKUZA THUGS ARE READY TO RUMBLE IN FRONT OF THE MOVIE THEATRES!
WHERE!?
IT'S A FIGHT!
HAPPENED SEVERAL DAYS LATER NEAR A THEATRE AT IKEBUKURO.
JOE AND WOLF KANAGUSHI'S FATEFUL REUNION,

上映中
上映中
道頓堀伝!

BUMPING INTO US AND NOT APOLOGIZING WILL BE THE BIGGEST MISTAKE OF YOUR PATHETIC LIVES.
THIS IS OUR TURF AND WE'LL BE DAMNED BEFORE WE LET SOME PUNKS SWAGGER 'ROUND HERE.


ARE EITHER MENTALLY RETARDED OR HAVE SOME MAJOR BALLS IF YOU THINK YOU CAN PISS US OFF AND GET AWAY WITH IT.
YOU PUNKS,


YOU IDIOT, THAT'S PROGRESS AND HARMONY, NOT REASON AND CONFIDENCE.
THE HELL ARE THEY GOING ON ABOUT? THE OSAKA EXPO SLOGAN?

REASON AND CONFIDENCE?
RIGHT, GUYS?
HEH, NOT APOLOGIZING JUST MEANS WE HAVE ENOUGH CONFIDENCE AND REASON TO DO WHATEVER WE FEEL LIKE!

LET'S FIRST ASK WHAT THEY MEANT BY THAT.

WAIT!

WHY YOU-

AHAHAHAHA!

HE THOUGHT WE WERE TALKIN' ABOUT THE EXPO SLOGAN!

TIME FOR YOUR DEBUT!

BRO!

HUH? WHO?

WE'VE GOT A NEW MEMBER BACKING US NOW.

SIMPLE. ALL IT MEANS IS THAT THE TIDES HAVE CHANGED.

道侠伝!

HEH HEH, WHY DON'T YOU SHOW THEM YOUR FACE?

WHO'S THIS PUNK SUPPOSED TO BE?

WHAT, ARE WE SUPPOSED TO KNOW WHO THIS IDIOT IS?

PFT.

!!

THEY CAN'T EVEN RECOGNIZE THE FORMER BANTAMWEIGHT ROOKIE CHAMPION AFTER STARING AT HIM IN THE FACE! DON'T THEY EVEN KNOW WOLF KANAGUSHI WAS ONCE PREDICTED TO BE A CONTENDER FOR THE WORLD-TITLE IN BOXING?

OH WELL, BRAINLESS THUGS WILL BE BRAINLESS THUGS.

THIS IS THE SAME MAN WHO FOUGHT EVEN THE NOTORIOUS YABUKI JOE TO A CLOSE BOUT!

OH, DOES THAT RING A LITTLE BELL NOW? MAYBE YOU AREN'T AS DUMB AS I THOUGHT.

WOLF KANAGUSHI!?

W-WHA!

BETTER RECONSIDER TRYING TO TAKE US ON NOW!

WHAT'RE YOU FAGGOTS GONNA DO?

SO NOW THAT WOLF KANAGUSHI'S ON OUR SIDE...

SUCH A SHAME FOR A MAN ONCE THOUGHT TO BE THE FUTURE WORLD-CHAMPION...

BUT TO THINK HE WAS NOW WORKING FOR THE YAKUZA...

I HEARD HE WAS FORCED INTO EARLY RETIREMENT AFTER HIS JAW WAS SEVERELY FRACTURED BY YABUKI...

T-THAT'S THE ONE AND ONLY WOLF KANAGUSHI...

THIS AIN'T BOXING AND WE DON'T PLAY PRETTY WITH BOXING GLOVES. WE GOT FAR MORE EFFICIENT TOOLS FOR GETTING SHIT DONE!

SO WHAT IF YOU HAVE WOLF KANAGUSHI!?

GYAAA!

AGHHHH! THEY PULLED OUT THEIR KNIVES!

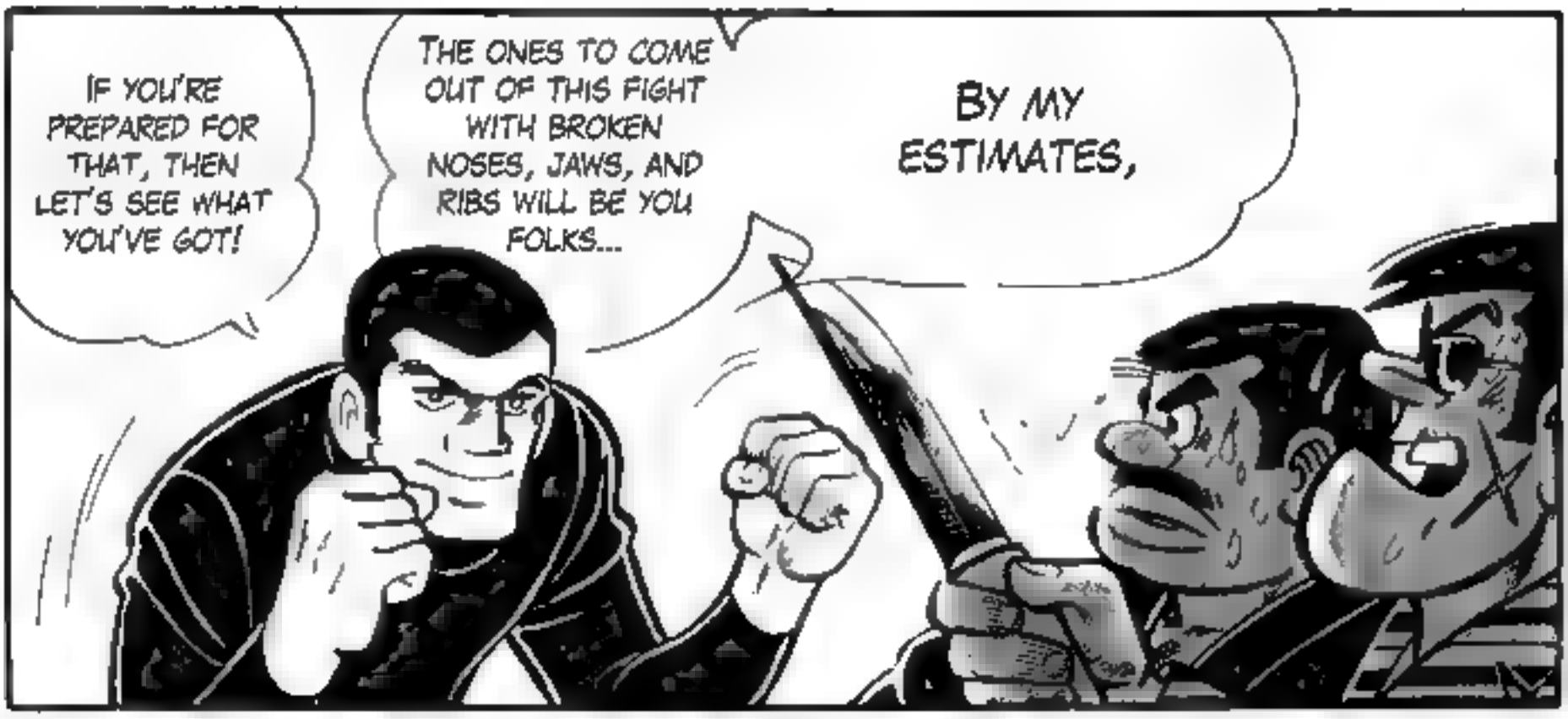
NOT ONLY THAT, CLUTCHING SUCH SHORT KNIVES WITH TREMBLING HANDS IS ONLY GOING TO HANDCAP YOUR MOVEMENTS...

A BOXER'S PUNCH IS AT LEAST TWO TIMES FASTER THAN NORMAL PEOPLE'S PUNCHES.

BUT YOU FOLKS ARE FORGETTING A KEY POINT.

NOT A BAD WEAPON FOR KILLING...

HEH...


IF YOU'RE PREPARED FOR THAT, THEN LET'S SEE WHAT YOU'VE GOT!
THE ONES TO COME OUT OF THIS FIGHT WITH BROKEN NOSES, JAWS, AND RIBS WILL BE YOU FOLKS...
BY MY ESTIMATES,

UGH..
AGH!

IF YOU WON'T COME AT ME, THEN I'LL COME AT YOU!

ACK!
AGHHH-
F-FALL BACK!
MOVE IT!
AGHHH!
GYAAAA!

AGHHH-
OH MY LORD...

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

WE'LL GET YOU BACK FOR THIS ONE DAY!
WE WON'T FORGET ABOUT THIS!
HEH HEH...
A-ARE YOU ALRIGHT!?

GO HOME AND CRY TO YOUR MOMMIES!

ALL BARK AND NO BITE!

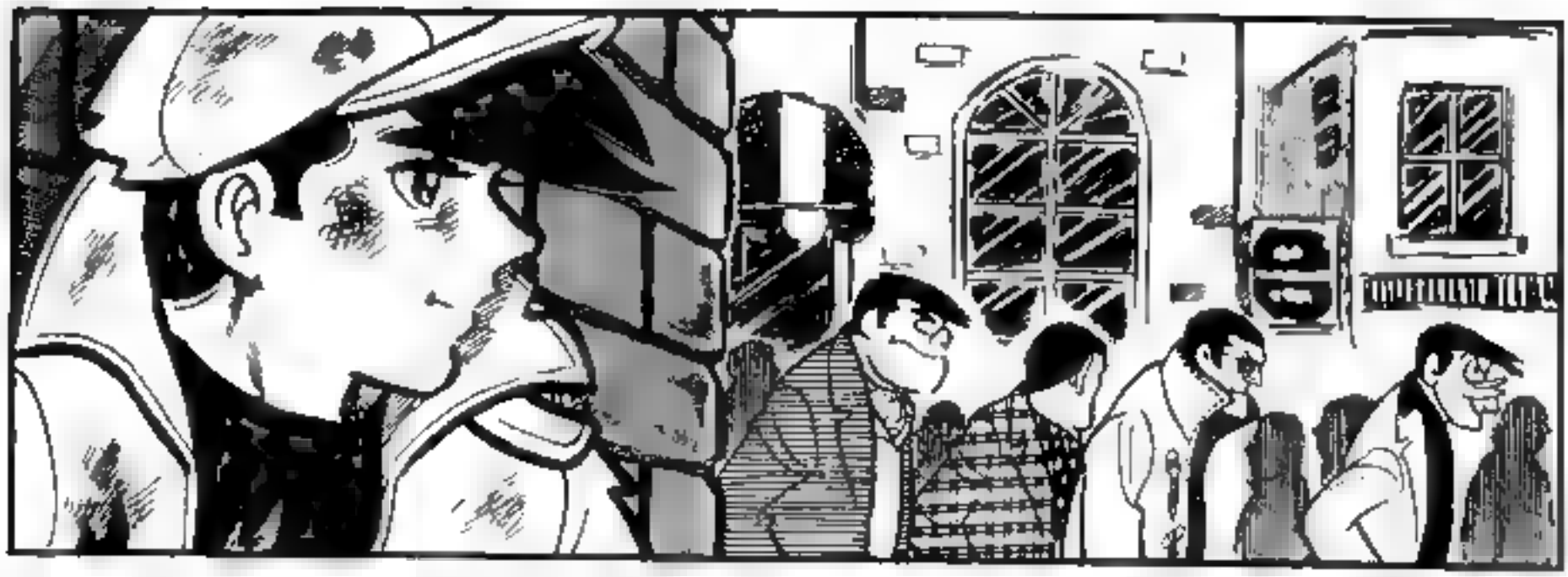
HAHAHAHA! GET A LOAD OF THOSE LOSERS!

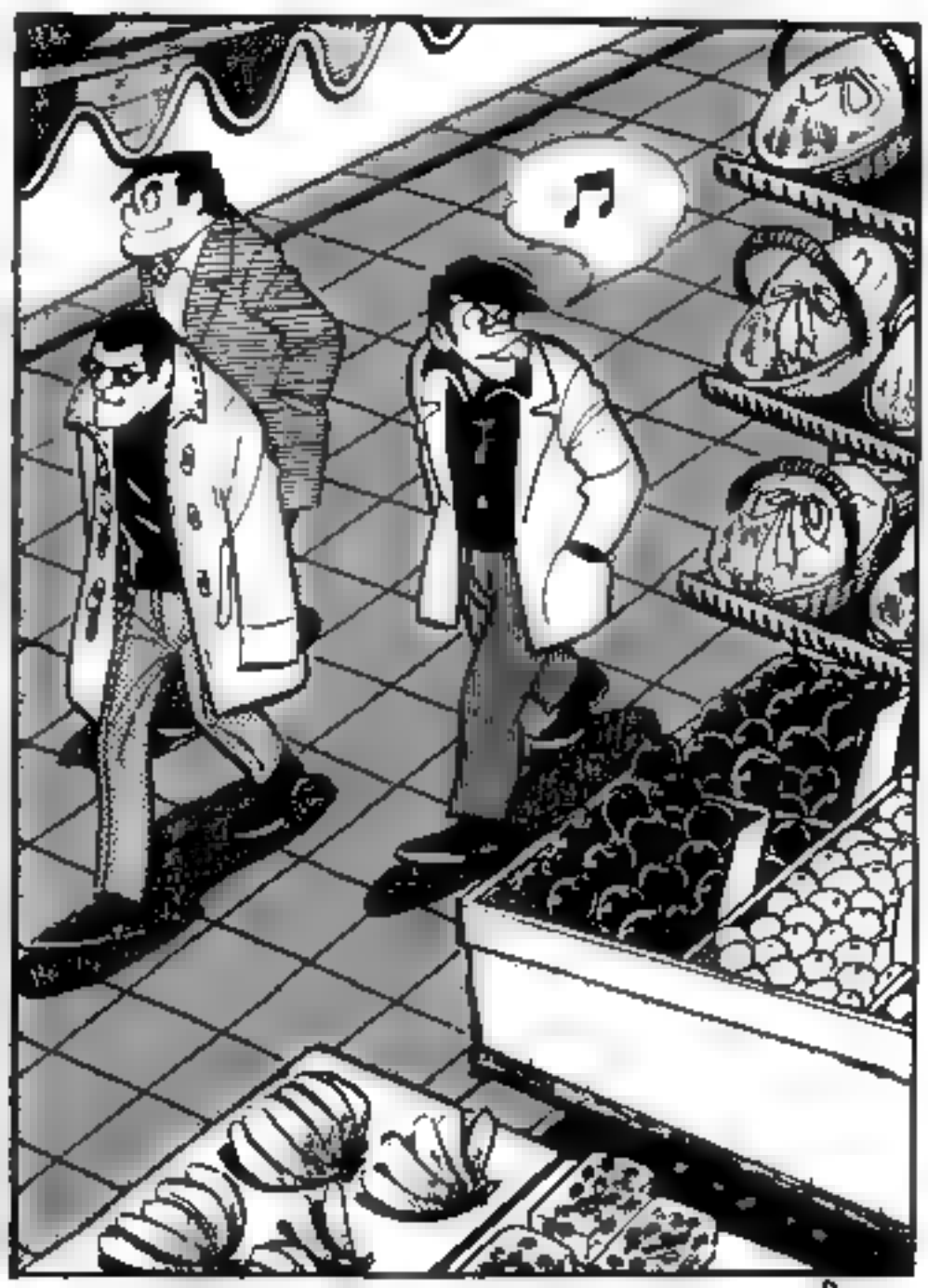
THANKS A LOT AGAIN, BRO!

HERE'S YOUR JACKET!

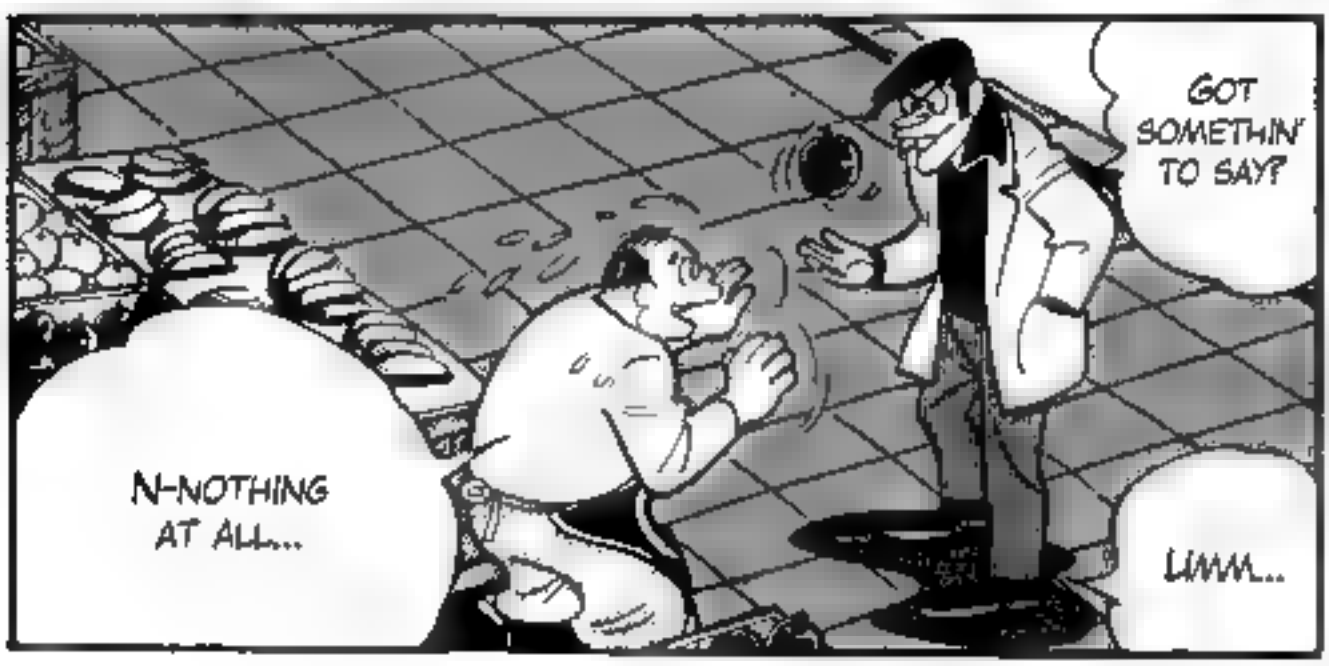
WHAT'RE YOU LOOKIN' AT!?

BEAT IT!





UMM, SIR...


GOT SOMETHIN' TO SAY?
N-NOTHING AT ALL...
UMM...

LOOP

純喫茶
喜楽
WEL
WELCOME TO OUR SHOP..
WE'LL TAKE THE SEATS UPSTAIRS!

I REALLY GOTTA HAND IT TO YOU BRO, YOU'RE EVEN STRONGER THAN WE IMAGINED!

YOU BEAT THE LIVING DAYLIGHTS OUT OF THAT THUG!

NOT SURPRISING. ANY SENSIBLE PERSON WOULD WET THEIR PANTS IF HE HAD TO FIGHT A BOXER WHO COULD TAKE PUNCHES WHICH KILLED EVEN THE GREAT RIKIISHI!

THE REST RAN WITH THEIR TAILS BETWEEN THEIR LEGS!

YEAH, ABOUT THAT..

...

TELL ME ABOUT IT!

THAT FIGHT BETWEEN YOU AND YABUKI WAS SOMETHING WE COULD NEVER FORGET!

THAT'S RIGHT, THAT'S RIGHT.

OF COURSE, BRO!

S-SURE!

IF SO, I'D EASILY BE FIGHTING A WORLD-TITLE MATCH 'ROUND NOW.

I COULD'VE KO'D HIM IF I ONLY HAD THE CHANCE TO FIGHT HIM AGAIN.

YOU DON'T HAVE ANY?

UMM... I'M AFRAID WE DON'T HAVE ANY WHISKEY SINCE THIS IS JUST A COFFEE SHOP

BRING US THE BEST WHISKEY YOU'VE GOT!

WHAT WOULD YOU SIRS LIKE TO ORDER?

WELL HURRY IT UP THEN!

A-ACTUALLY, ON A SECOND THOUGHT, I THINK WE MIGHT HAVE SOME..! PLEASE EXCUSE ME!

HAHAHA!

ARE YOU SURE...?

REALLY NOW?

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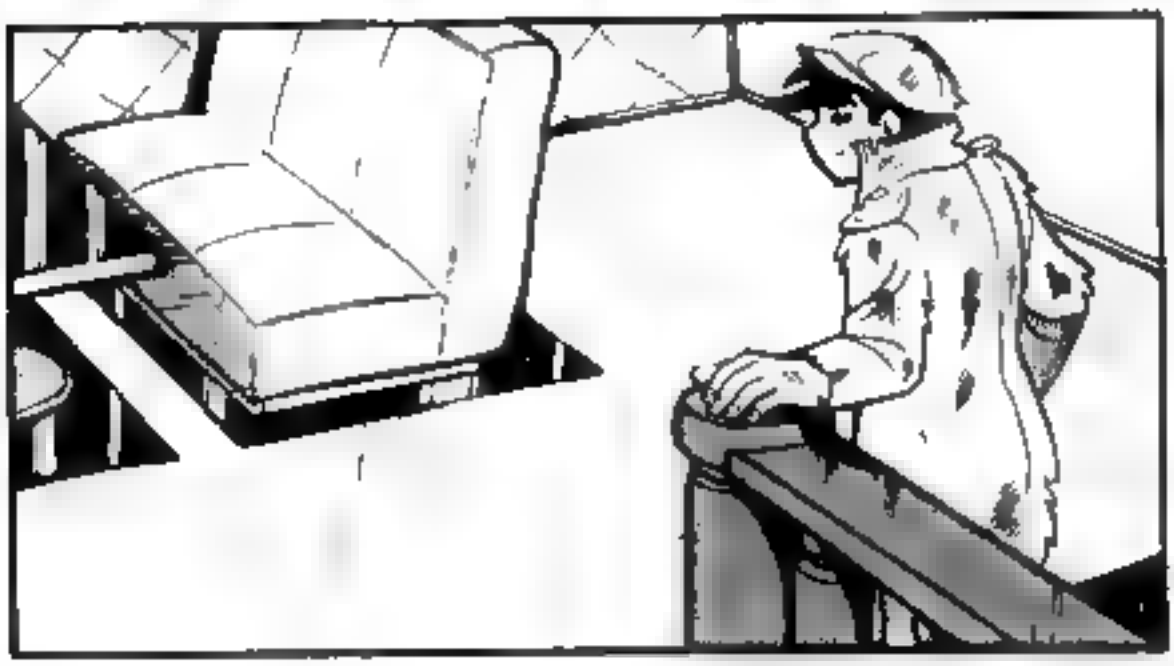

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IF ONLY MY STEP-IN WAS 1CM DEEPER, MY COUNTER WOULD'VE DESTROYED HIM!!

IT ALL CAME DOWN TO LUCK, I TELL YA.

AND HE WOULDN'T HAVE HAD THE TIME FOR A TRIPLE CROSS COUNTER.

JUST A SINGLE CM DEEPER,

BRING US SOME FOOD TO GO ALONG WITH THE WHISKEY!

WOW, I NEVER REALIZED IT ALL CAME DOWN TO A SINGLE CM...

MY FIGHT WITH YABUKI JOE!

I'M TALKIN' ABOUT ME!

RIKIISHI? SINCE WHEN THE HELL WAS I TALKIN' ABOUT RIKIISHI?

AHH-

DOES THAT MEAN A SINGLE CM COULD'VE PREVENTED RIKIISHI'S DEATH TOO?

SO...

トク トク

...

H-HERE, HAVE ANOTHER DRINK.

MY BAD...

O-OH RIGHT,

ME! THE BANTAMWEIGHT WORLD CHAMPION!

I COULD'VE BEEN THE CHAMPION!

IF ONLY I WAS A LITTLE LUCKIER, I WOULD'VE BEEN RANKED HIGH ENOUGH TO FIGHT FOR THE WORLD-TITLE!

ANYWAYS,

YEAH, AND THEN GUYS LIKE US COULDN'T EVEN DARE TO TALK TO SOMEONE AS FAMOUS AS YOU.

YOUR NAME COULD'VE BEEN KNOWN ACROSS THE WHOLE WORLD...!

WOW...

THAT YABUKI WAS NOTHING MORE THAN SOME STUPID PEBBLE I ACCIDENTALLY TRIPPED OVER ALONG MY ROAD TO FAME AND SUCCESS...

IF ONLY MY JAW DIDN'T SHATTER SO BADLY, I COULD'VE RE-CHALLENGED YABUKI AND KO'D HIM FOR SURE IN MY SECOND TRY!

BUT EVEN IF IT WASN'T FOR THAT I CM...

YEAH, YOU WERE JUST UNLUCKY, BRO...

I AGREE COMPLETELY. IT'S A REAL SHAME YOU WERE STRUCK DOWN SO EARLY ON IN YOUR CAREER...

I WAS JUST A PEBBLE, WAS I NOW...?

HEY THERE.

HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN WHAT YOU DID TO US EARLIER TODAY, HAVE YOU?

WE'RE JUST HERE TO REPAY THE FAVOUR, THAT'S ALL.

AH-

CAN'T JUST BACK DOWN AGAINST YOU SMALL FRIES AND SHAME OUR ENTIRE GANG NOW, YOU SEE...

ONE MINUTE, THEY'RE RUNNING WITH THEIR TAILS BETWEEN THEIR LEGS AND THE NEXT MINUTE, THEY'RE BACK TO ACTIN' BIG AND TOUGH!

GET A LOAD OF THESE GUYS!

WE'LL LEAVE THEM TO YOU.

GANGSTER GONDOU!

YOU GUYS AREN'T THE ONLY ONE THAT CAN HIRE SOME MUSCLE FOR PROTECTION.

HEH.

THE NOTORIOUS LONE WOLF THAT YAKUZA GANGS ALL THROUGHOUT JAPAN WANT TO HIRE..!

THAT'S RIGHT, THE ONE AND ONLY GONDOU!

GANGSTER GONDOU...?

D-DID HE JUST SAY...

HE'S A PRO AMONG PROS!

PARDON ME, THEN.

I DOUBT HE'LL BE A MATCH FOR OUR WOLF, THE FORMER ROOKIE BANTAMWEIGHT CHAMPION!

WHATEVER.

YOU SMALL FRIES CAN JUST SHUT UP AND STAND BACK!

W-WHAT? BUT-

I'D LIKE TO SEE HOW EFFECTIVE MY SKILLS ARE ON A FORMER PROFESSIONAL BOXER.

I DOUBT IF I CAN ACTUALLY BEAT HIM BUT A BODYGUARD'S GOTTA DO WHAT HE'S BEEN HIRED FOR, IMPOSSIBLE OR NOT.

OH, I DON'T DISAGREE WITH THAT.

WOULD YOU PLEASE STAND UP, WOLF?

COME AT ME.

FINE THEN.

JUST COME AT ME ONCE YOU THINK YOU'RE READY

DON'T CARE WHEN OR HOW.

シャッ!!

GAHHHHH!

AGHHH!

UGH!

H-HE HIT WOLF'S JAW...!

AHHH!

HEH.

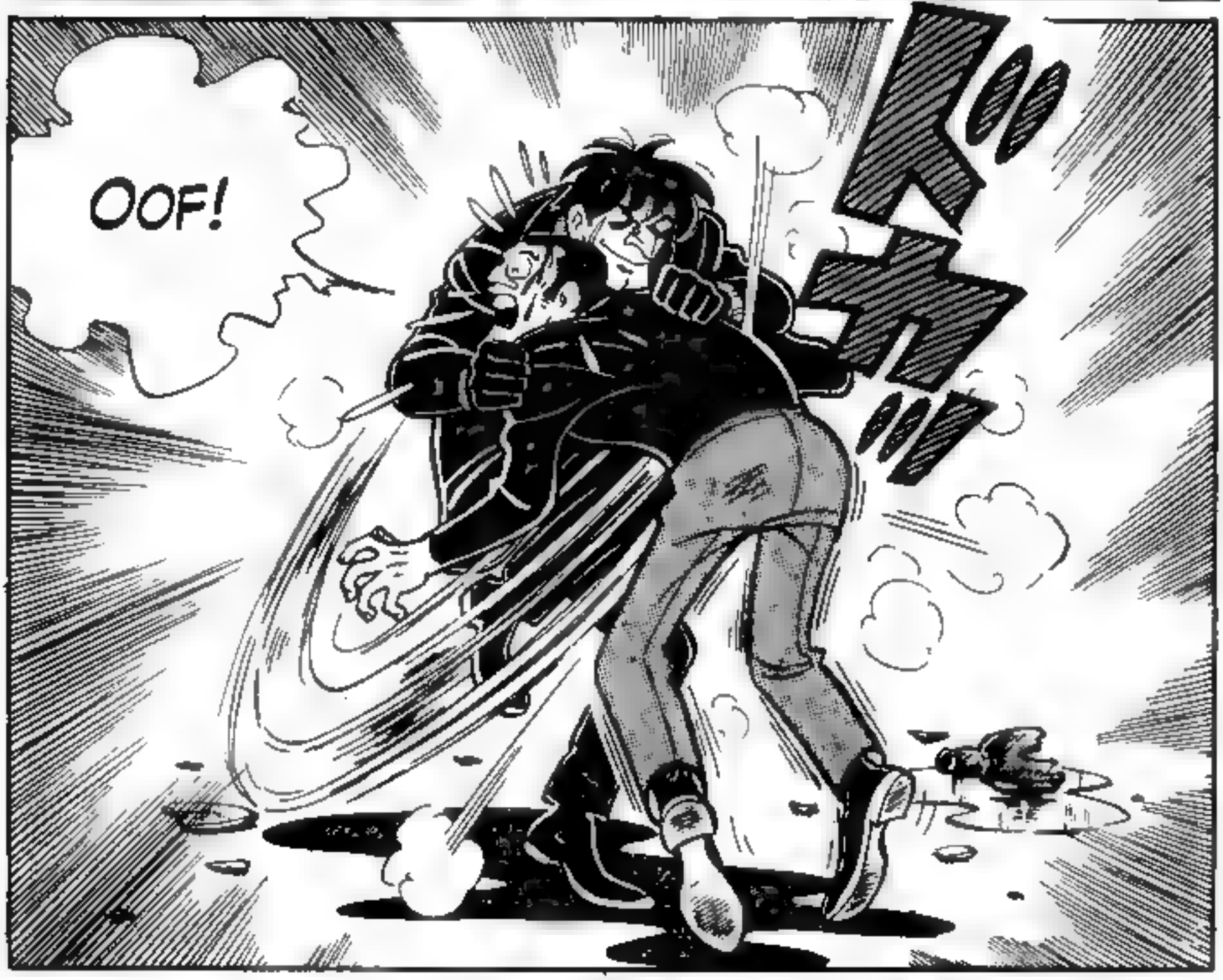
GAHHHHHHH!

UGARGH!

AGH-

ゲイ!!!

AHHHH!
ACK!


OOF!

HE'S GONNA BE KILLED...
G-GONDOU, YOU CAN STOP NOW...
OH JESUS ...

ARE YOU SERIOUSLY TRYING TO KILL HIM, YOU...

COWARDLY SON OF A BITCH!

CAN'T YOU SEE HE'S ALREADY BEEN BEATEN!?

W-WHO THE HELL ARE YOU...?

JUST DON'T HURT WOLF ANYMORE THAN THIS IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU.

WHAT DOES IT MATTER TO YOU?

AGHHHHH!

LET'S GET 'IM, GUYS!

GUY MUST BE INSANE!

YOU THINK YOU CAN TELL GONDOU HERE WHAT TO DO EVEN AFTER YOU SAW WOLF GETTIN' TRASHED!?

WHAT THE...

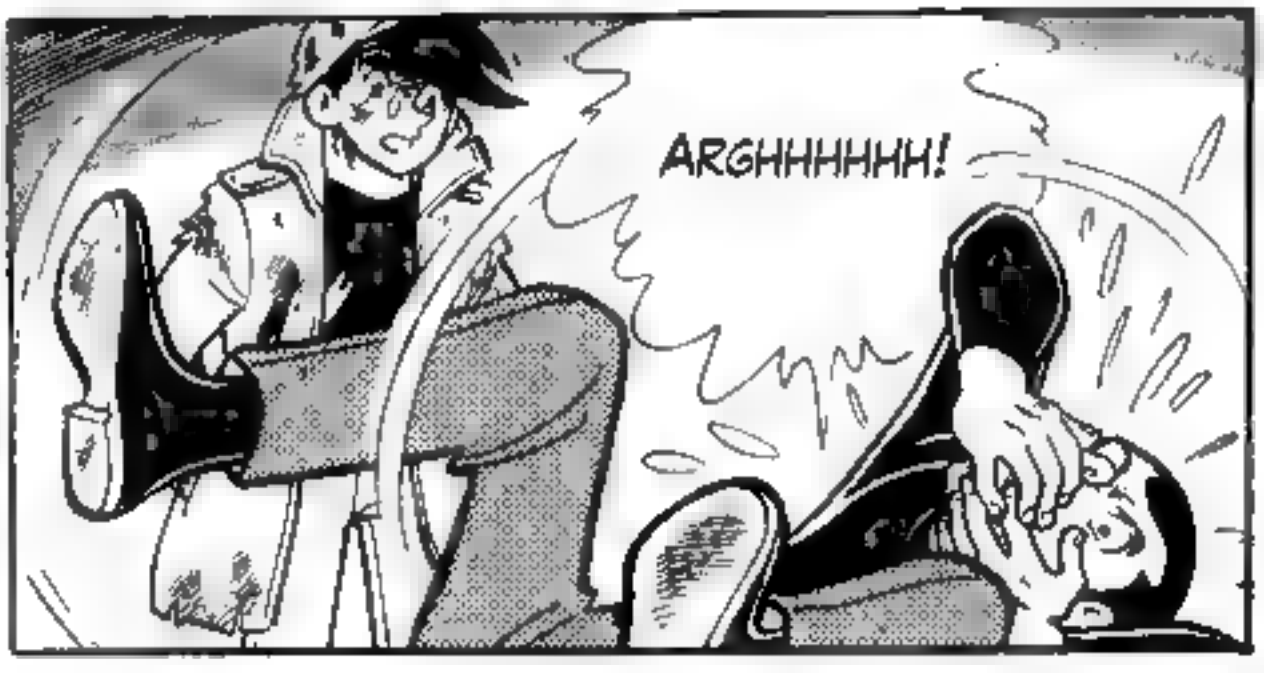
STAND BACK AND JUST KEEP QUIET!

WAIT!

HUH...?
DO YOU WANT TO BE BEATEN TO DEATH!?
B-BUT...

UGHH...!
.....
EVEN TEN OF YOU LOT WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO TAKE HIM ON.
THIS ONE'S STRONG...
WHAT!?

THE ONES PISSING YOUR PANTS OVER THERE!
HEY, YOU!


ARGHHHHHH!

. . . .
THE HELL ARE YOU JUST STARING BLANKLY FOR!? HURRY UP AND TAKE WOLF TO THE HOSPITAL!
AGHHHHH! AHHHHHHH!
H-HANG IN THERE, BRO.
STOP THRASHING SO MUCH..
GAAAHHHHH!
IF YOU DON'T HURRY, HE MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO USE HIS JAW EVER AGAIN!
R-RIGHT...
GAHHHH...

AGHHHHH!

RAISE HIS HEAD!

HOLD HIM DOWN PROPERLY!

AS A GUY WHO EARNS HIS LIVING BY FIGHTING, I CAN GAUGE MY FOES PRETTY WELL JUST BY LOOKING AT'EM.

JUST PART OF MY TRADE, YOU SEE...

WHAT MADE YOU THINK I'M A STRONG ONE...?

MAYBE ONE BY THE NAME OF YABUKI JOE?

YOU'RE A BOXER, CORRECT?

JUST AS I THOUGHT...

JOE!?

Y-YABUKI...

NOT GONNA FOOLISHLY FIGHT SOMEONE I KNOW I CAN'T BEAT.

SORRY FELLAS, BUT I CAN'T TAKE HIM ON.

BUT MY GUT INSTINCT AT LEAST TOLD ME I WOULDN'T LOSE AGAINST WOLF...

WELL, I MIGHT NOT HAVE WON,

WHY'D YOU THINK YOU COULD BEAT WOLF IF BOTH HE AND I ARE FORMER PROFESSIONAL BOXERS!?

THEN LET ME ASK YOU ONE THING.

THERE'S A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BOXERS IN THEIR PRIME AND AFTER THEIR RETIREMENT.

BUT SINCE YOU TOOK CARE OF WOLF SO EASILY, WHY'RE YOU SUDDENLY BACKING DOWN?

I MEAN, YABUKI WAS ONLY ABLE TO BARELY BEAT WOLF DURING THEIR MATCH...

W-WHY'S THAT?

YOU IDIOTS.

THOSE PITIFUL EYES OF HIS TOLD ME THAT I COULD TAKE HIM ON.

THAT HE WAS JUST A ROTTING HUSK OF HIS FORMER SELF, WHO COULD NOW ONLY PINE FOR HIS LONG-GONE GLORY DAYS.

I COULD TELL FROM THE DULL GLINT IN WOLF'S EYES,

I JUST HATE GUYS LIKE HIM.

HEH

IF YOU KNEW YOU COULD BEAT HIM, THEN WHY'D YOU HAVE TO GO SO FAR AS TO ALMOST KILLING HIM?

YOU'RE GETTIN' ON MY NERVES NOW..

PATHETIC LOSERS WHO CAN ONLY LICK THEIR OLD WOUNDS AND MAKE EXCU-

AGHHH!
KOOO
UGH...
KOOO
SAY SOMETHIN' BAD ABOUT WOLF AGAIN! I DARE YOU! I DOUBLE DARE YOU!

'CAUSE IF YOU DO, I SWEAR I'LL KILL YOU!

GAHHH!

IMPRESSIVE...

IM...

WAS THE REAL THING...

YOUR PUNCH...

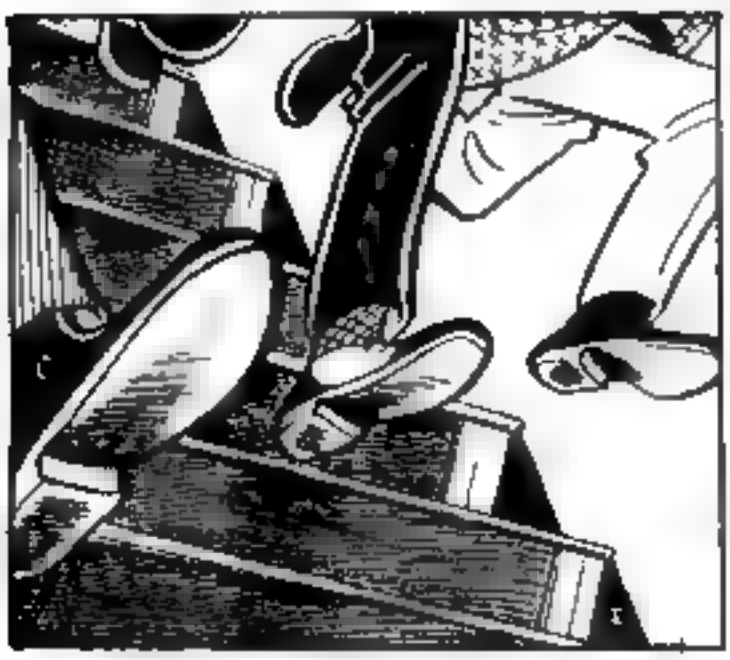
HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

A BOXER'S PUNCH... OUGHTA FEEL LIKE...

THIS IS HOW...



RUN FOR IT!
CRAP, SOMEONE'S CALLED THE COPS!

Yabuki Joe

Boxer Yabuki Joe (of Tange Gym) involved in brawl with local yakuza gangs.

Appears to be in a state of despair ever since accidentally killing Rikiishi Tooru

Had run away from his gym and has been living on the streets

HE WAS ONLY STEPPING IN TO STOP HIS FORMER BOXING RIVAL WOLF KANAGUSHI FROM BEING CRUELLY BEATEN,

ACCORDING TO THIS REPORT,

JUST SIGN HERE, PLEASE.

WE'LL MAKE A SPECIAL EXCEPTION AND LET HIM OFF THE HOOK.

T-THANK YOU...

WAS HIS PUNCH STILL REALLY THAT STRONG...?

LETHAL ...?

A BOXER'S FIST IS A LETHAL WEAPON, YOU KNOW..

YOU SHOULD REALLY TAKE BETTER CARE IN SUPERVISING YOUR GYM'S PLAYER.

SINCE YOU'RE HIS GUARDIAN AND COACH,

HIS FISTS ARE STILL ALIVE AND WELL...!

HE'S STILL GOT IT!

IT'S... JUST AS I THOUGHT...

AH-

BUT IT WAS STILL ENOUGH TO GIVE THAT GANGSTER A 3-MONTH TRIP TO THE HOSPITAL.

WELL, IT WASN'T LITERALLY LETHAL,

BOTH THE COACH AND HIS PLAYER ARE EQUALLY LACKING IN COMMON SENSE, IF YOU ASK ME...

HMPH!

SORRY, OFFICER...

S...

SO IF YOU DON'T WIPE THAT SMIRK OFF YOUR FACE, I WON'T DROP THE CHARGES SO EASILY!

YOU THINK THIS IS SOMETHING TO BE HAPPY ABOUT!? WHAT YOUR PLAYER DID IS STILL ASSAULT!

ALRIGHT THEN, GO BRING OUT YABUKI.

YES, SIR.

SO GET OUTTA HERE!

YOUR COACH IS HERE TO BAIL YOU OUT

THIS WAY!

. . . .

EVERYONE WAS WORRIED SICK ABOUT YOU.

J-JOE...

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR EVERYTHING, OFFICER.

I APOLOGIZE FOR THE INCONVENIENCE WE CAUSED...

NISHI, NORI, AND THOSE BRATS ARE ALL WAITING FOR YOU IN THE LOBBY.

LET'S GET GOING THEN.

WHAT'S WRONG?

THOSE KIDS HAVE BEEN-

AS I WAS SAYING,

RIKIISHI...

RI...

WHAT'RE YOU TURNING ALL PALE FOR?

H-HE'S STANDIN' RIGHT THERE!

RIKIISHI!?

おおお

R-R-RI...
I-IT'S HIM!
RIKIISHI IS...!

NISHI ...?

IT'S JUST NISHI!
GET A GRIP, JOE!

IT'S JUST NISHI HERE TO WELCOME YOU BACK.
TAKE A LOOK!

....

C'MON, STAND UP PROPERLY NOW.

WHEW..

YOU LOOK PRETTY WORN OUT.

IT'S JUST ME, JOE.

*WOK

MAKE SURE YOU WATCH YOUR STEP.

ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE ALRIGHT?

HAHA..

THEN IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE FOR YOU.

IF YOU'RE GOING AROUND HALLUCINATING,

BEEN AWHILE SINCE I GOT SOME DECENT SHUT-EYE, Y'KNOW.

LOOKS LIKE I WAS JUST DAYDREAMING.

PALE, EMACIATED, COVERED IN DIRT...

LOOK AT YOURSELF.

NISHI, NOT NOW...

HIS FISTS ARE STILL ALIVE JUST LIKE I SAID!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT JOE.

I ALREADY HEARD ABOUT THAT FROM THE PAPERS.

YEAH, WHATEVER.

RIGHT, JOE?

THE GANGSTER HE BEAT TO A PULP WAS APPARENTLY SOME NOTORIOUS FIGHTER INFAMOUS AMONG THE YAKUZA.

BUT EVEN YOUR ATTITUDE...

NOT JUST YOUR FACE OR HAIRSTYLE,

HAVEN'T YOU, NISHI...

YOU'VE CHANGED QUITE A BIT SINCE WE LAST MET,

JUST IN A DENSER AND MORE COMPACT BODY, THAT'S ALL!

THEY'RE STILL HERE, ALRIGHT.

WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL THE MEAT ON YOUR BONES, HUH?

NOT SURPRISING I MISTOOK YOU FOR RIKIISHI.

HA...

IT'S NOT JUST THE WEIGHT-LOSS REGIMEN, BUT THE AMOUNT OF EFFORT HE PUTS IN TRAINING IS JUST... HE'S LIKE A WHOLE NEW PERSON NOW! HAHAHA...

YOU KNOW, YOU SHOULD REALLY SEE HOW HARD NISHI WORKS LATELY.

AH!

SO HE REALLY MANAGED TO LAY OFF ALL THAT WEIGHT? I'M IMPRESSED..

AH..

JOE!

YABUKI!

GUYS, IT'S JOE!

HOPE THERE'S NO HARD FEELINGS FOR MAKING YOU TAKE THE HIT.

GOOD TO SEE YOU BACK ON THE OTHER SIDE, BRO.

COULD'VE AT LEAST WROTE US A LETTER, Y'KNOW!

WHERE'VE YOU BEEN ALL THIS TIME!?

WE WERE ALL REAL WORRIED 'BOUT YOU.

じろっ…

L-LET'S GET GOING.

YEAH, LET'S GO.

WHAT KINDA IDIOT GOES AROUND PRETENDIN' TO BE A YAKUZA IN A POLICE STATION?

PRETTY GOOD.

SO, HOW'VE YOU KIDS BEEN DOING?

IT'S BEEN A REAL LONG TIME.

I'VE GOT 12 STRAIGHT SUMO WINS!

I'M REALLY STRONG NOW, YOU KNOW.

YEAH, YEAH!

HE'S JUST BRAGGING. WE ALL KNOW THE REAL REASON FOR HIS WINNING STREAK IS BECAUSE HE ALWAYS MAKES UP SOME EXCUSE TO LEAVE WHEN HE'S MATCHED AGAINST TARO.

N-NO IT'S NOT! I SWEAR, I REALLY HAD TO GO HOME EARLY THAT DAY!

OH, IS THAT RIGHT?

DO YOU WANT A RIDE TOO?

YABUKI, WE CAME HERE BY CAR.

CHATTER CHATTER

CHATTER CHATTER

CAN WE RIDE TOO? WE SWEAR WE WON'T MESS IT UP.

PRETTY PLEASE?

BUT SEEMS LIKE WE'RE MISSING THE DRIVER...

PRETTY FANCY, AIN'T IT?

A NEW CAR?

SURE, YOU CAN ALL RIDE.

THE DRIVER'S RIGHT HERE. ME.

SOMETIMES HE GIVES US A RIDE TOO!

THE MAMMOTH'S A PRETTY GOOD DRIVER, JOE!

OH.

YOU CAN SIT IN THE FRONT, MR. DANPEI. I'LL GO SIT WITH THE KIDS IN THE BACK.

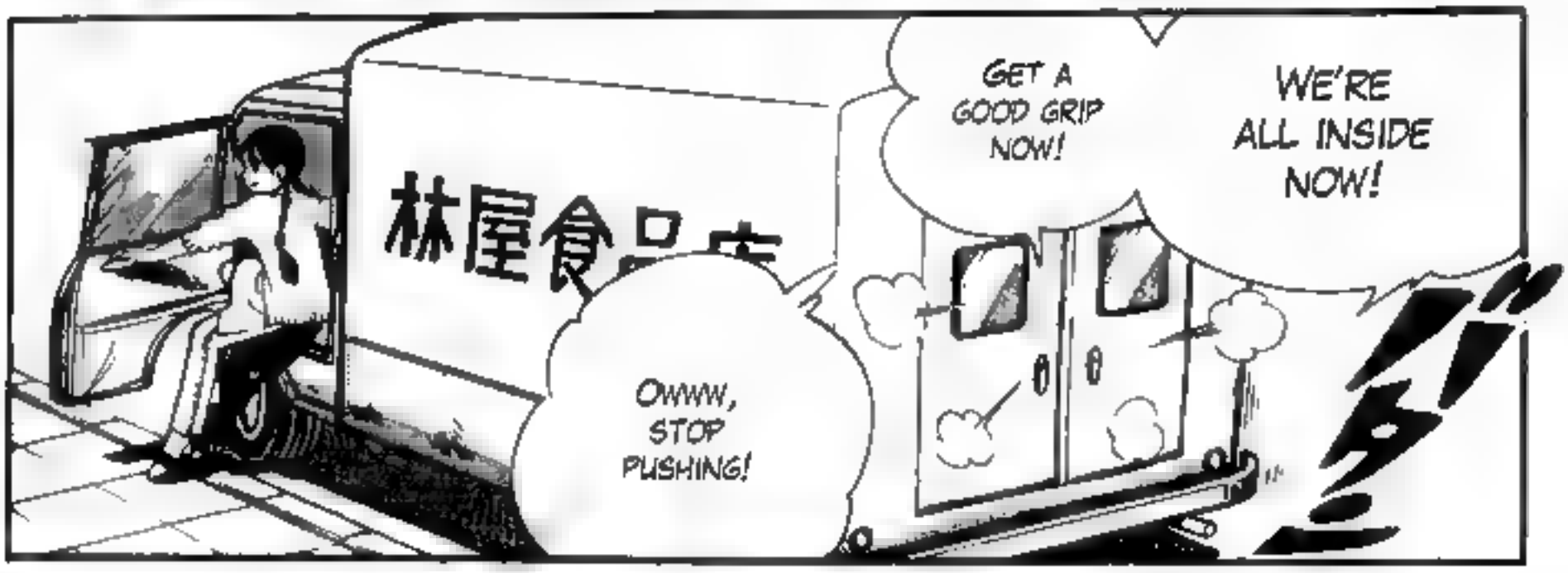
YOU?

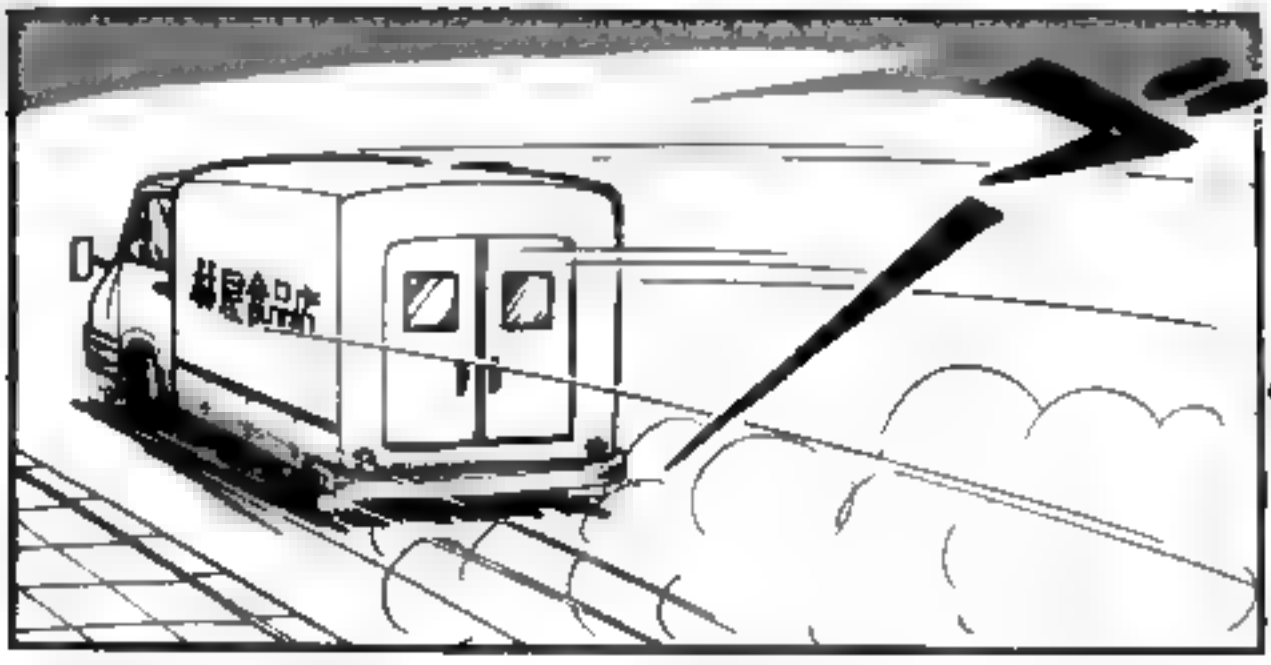
I JUST GOT MY DRIVER'S LICENSE.

THANKS TO MR. HAYASHI,

HURRY UP AND COME SIT IN THE FRONT.
NORIKO,

ALRIGHT, LET'S GET IN, KIDS.
NAH, I'LL BE THE ONE TO SIT IN THE BACK.


林屋食品
GET A GOOD GRIP NOW!
WE'RE ALL INSIDE NOW!
OWWW, STOP PUSHING!


林屋食品

WE'RE OFF THEN!
ALRIGHT,

HEY, YOU KIDS BACK THERE!
IT'S TECHNICALLY AGAINST THE LAW TO HAVE PEOPLE RIDING IN THE TRUNK SO YOU GOTTA KEEP QUIET!
WHAT'LL YOU DO? CRY, SHOUT, OR DIE~
林屋食品

WHOA-

AH!

AHH!

ふらり

OWW!

YEAH, HE'S RIDING IN THE BACK.

IS UMM... JOE BACK THOUGH. ?

S- SORRY...

I NEARLY RAN OVER YOU!

FOR GOD'S SAKE, DON'T JUST RUN OUT TO THE STREETS ALL OF A SUDDEN!

WOOHOO!

JOE?

REALLY?

HEY EVERYBODY!

JOE'S COME BACK!

REALLY!?

JOE'S BACK!

WHERE'VE YOU BEEN ALL THIS TIME, JOE!?

ALL WE EVER TALKED ABOUT THESE DAYS WERE RUMOURS OF WHERE YOU MIGHT BE!

OUR TOWN WITHOUT YOU IS LIKE A LAMP WITHOUT LIGHT! BEEN REAL LONELY WITHOUT YOU.

BEING ALL GLUM AIN'T LIKE YOU.

SO CHEER UP, JOE!

WOULDN'T STOP ASKING ME WHEN YOUR NEXT MATCH WOULD BE, YOU KNOW.

MY FATHER, WHO'S SICK IN BED,

DON'T EVER FORGET YOU'VE GOT ALL OF OUR SUPPORT!

SO HURRY UP AND GET BACK ON THE RING, YOU HEAR?

ULLIP

AM I RIGHT?

THE JOE I KNOW IS AT HIS BEST WHEN GIVING HIS ALL ON THE RING!

THAT'S RIGHT!

HEY, JOE'S BACK!

DID SOMEONE SAY JOE?

SO PLEASE KEEP ON SHINING AS ALWAYS.

BECAUSE YOU'RE THE LIGHT TO US POOR FOLKS IN DOYA.

WE'RE ALWAYS KEEPING A CLOSE EYE ON YOU, JOE,

THE CROWD'S JUST GETTIN' BIGGER! HURRY UP AND PULL AWAY!

WOW, TALK ABOUT POPULAR!

RIGHT.

ALRIGHT, NISHI. STEP ON THE PEDAL.

NOT SUPRISING CONSIDERING MOST OF THE PEOPLE HERE DON'T HAVE MUCH TO DO...

LET'S SAVE THE TALKING FOR A LITTLE LATER.

YOU'RE RIGHT, THEY JUST KEEP ON COMING AND COMING...

WE STILL WANNA TALK TO JOE!

WAIT!

H-HEY!

DON'T STOP FIGHTIN', CHAMP!

WE'LL GET YOU A NICE GOWN AS A WELCOME BACK GIFT NEXT TIME!

DON'T YOU THROW IN THE TOWEL JUST YET, JOE!

THAT WAS SURPRISING.

WHEW.

林屋食品店

JOE, SHE SAID WE'RE HERE!

YEAH..

WE'RE HERE AT THE GYM.

COME ON THEN.

OH WELL, I SUPPOSE IT'S TO BE EXPECTED.

OH, WOULD YOU LOOK AT ALL THIS DIRT ON OUR BRAND NEW TRUCK...

HEH HEH...

ALRIGHT, EVERYBODY OUT OF THE CAR!

HAHAHA! LIFT ME UP TOO!

ME TOO! ME TOO!

OH, YOU KIDS...

TEE HEE!

ストン

HEH HEH

HEH HEH

HAHA HA...

I HOPE THE LONG TRIP HASN'T EXHAUSTED YOU.

WELCOME BACK, YABUKI.

ワン

THANKS FOR THE RIDE..

IT'S ALMOST EVENING SO I'LL DROP YOU EACH OFF AT HOME.

YOU KIDS SHOULD GET IN THE CAR TOO.

RIGHT.

I'LL GO RETURN THE CAR AND GIVE NORIKO A RIDE BACK HOME.

WELL, I GUESS I'LL RETURN TO THE STORE NOW.

...

LET'S BEAT IT, GUYS.
OK.

AH!
WHAAAT, WE JUST GOT HERE!
YEAH, WE WANNA PLAY WITH JOE SOME MORE!
YABUKI'S TIRED FROM THE LONG TRIP SO WHY DON'T YOU KIDS PLAY WITH HIM TOMORROW?

YEAH..
LATER..

SEE YOU LATER, YABUKI.

BE A LITTLE NICER TO NORIKO, WILL YA?

HEY, BRO, C'MERE A SEC..

...

YEAH, SEE YA.

WELL, SEE YOU LATER THEN.

QUIET! THAT'S NOT SOMETHING A PIPSQUEAK LIKE YOU SHOULD BE CONCERNED WITH!

HEH HEH HEH...

WHEN SHE HEARD YOU'D BE COMING BACK TODAY.

SHE CAME REAL EARLY THIS MORNING TO CLEAN THE WHOLE PLACE,

OH...

YEAH, IT'S ALL THANKS TO NORIKO WHO'S BEEN SHOWING UP OCCASIONALLY TO HELP CLEAN AND DO THE LAUNDRY.

AIN'T THIS GYM LOOKING NICE AND LOVELY?

WELL, WELL, WEL...

I'LL GET STARTED ON DINNER THEN.

FEELING HUNGRY, RIGHT?

. . . .

I'M BACK!

WHEW, I'M BEAT.

I SPRINTED BACK FROM THE STORE AS PART OF MY TRAINING.

THAT SURE WAS FAST.

NISHI HERE'LL BE FIGHTING HIS FIRST 8-ROUNDER NEXT WEEK.

THAT'S RIGHT.

NEXT MATCH?

YEAH, MR. HAYASHI TOLD ME TO JUST GET SOME GOOD REST SINCE MY NEXT MATCH IS COMING UP.

YOU SURE IT'S ALRIGHT FOR YOU TO BE TAKING A BREAK FROM WORK?

TO THINK JUST A LITTLE WHILE BACK, YOU WERE ALL OUT OF BREATH FIGHTING 4-ROUNDERS.

IMPRESSIVE.

AN 8 ROUNDER!?

HEH.

. . . .

AND WON BOTH BY KO!

IN THE TIME YOU'VE BEEN GONE, I FOUGHT TWO 6 ROUNDERS,

YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO USE ME AS A MERE SANDBAG IF YOU WERE TO SPAR ME NOW.

BUT LET ME TELL YOU THAT I'M A WHOLE NEW PERSON NOW.

YOU MIGHT BE WONDERING HOW A GUY WHO USED TO SNEAK OFF IN THE NIGHT FOR A BOWL OF UDON COULD DO THAT,

HEH
HEH

I GUESS IT'S TRUE WHEN THEY SAY CONFIDENCE CAN CHANGE A MAN'S VERY FACE.

WELL, AREN'T YOU CONFIDENT OF YOURSELF

HEH

ふぅ はぁ

CONFIDENCE, EH...

YEAH, I'VE GOT A LOT OF THAT THESE DAYS!

OH, IS THE MAMMOTH TRAINING HARD TONIGHT AS WELL?
EVENIN'!

WE'RE REPORTERS FROM WEEKLY RING MAGAZINE, HERE TO ASK FOR A POSSIBLE INTERVIEW ABOUT YOUR UPCOMING 8-ROUNDER...
YOU BET!

AH!
IS THAT... IS THAT YABUKI SITTING OVER THERE?
HEY.

JUST NOW.
WHEN DID YOU COME BACK?
YOU'RE RIGHT, IT IS HIM!
DIDN'T YOU FOLKS COME HERE TO INTERVIEW NISHI? THE MAN YOU WANT IS OVER THERE.
I HEARD IN THE PAPERS YOU WERE NOW FIGHTING GANGSTERS OR SOMETHING...
SO WHERE'VE YOU BEEN ALL THIS TIME?
AH, RIGHT, RIGHT...

MAYBE LATER...

YOU SHOULD TRAIN WITH ME.

ISN'T YOUR BODY FEELIN' STIFF FROM WANDERING OUT IN THE STREETS FOR SO LONG?

JOE.

A REAL SHAME, ISN'T IT, MR. DANPEI?

SIGH.

I HEAR A LOT OF PROMOTERS AND PEOPLE IN THE BUSINESS ARE STILL TRYING TO GET IN TOUCH WITH HIM...

ALL US BOXING FANS ARE EAGERLY AWAITING YABUKI'S RETURN TO THE RING, BUT IT SEEMS LIKE THE MAN HIMSELF ISN'T QUITE UP TO IT YET...

TIME FOR YOUR INTERVIEW.

NISHI!

RIGHT

Rikiishi Tooru of Shiraki Gym Dies on the Ring!
Severe weight loss and a blow to the temple gave way to a fatal tragedy
Funeral to be held at Shiraki Residences Today

AND UP ON MY FEET AGAIN...

I'M FINALLY BACK...

RIKIISHI...

RIKIISHI WAS AN IDIOT FOR DYING FROM FIGHTING A GUY LIKE YOU.

HMPH.

NISHI ONCE TOLD ME...

HA..

HE DIED A WORTHLESS DOG'S DEATH!

BECAUSE OF YOU,

YOU HAVE TO STAND BACK UP FOR HIS SAKE!

YOU CAN'T.

JOE, YOU CAN'T JUST LET HIS DEATH GO TO WASTE..

A MAN WITH A REAL SPINE...

I THOUGHT YOU WERE A MAN WITH SOME REAL SPIRIT.

SHE SAID THE SAME THING...

AND WHEN I MET YOUKO,

AND NEITHER WILL I!

BECAUSE RIKIISHI AND WOLF WON'T FORGIVE NOR LET YOU!

BUT THAT WON'T BE.

YOU MIGHT HAVE YOUR HEART SET ON ABANDONING THE RING,

IF MY STEP-IN WAS JUST A SINGLE CM DEEPER...

IT ALL CAME DOWN TO LUCK.

I WITNESSED WHAT WOLF HAD BEEN REDUCED TO...

JUST A SINGLE CM...

1 CM...

AND A LITTLE AFTER THAT,

I SAW HIM BEING BEATEN HELPLESSLY BY SOME GANGSTER BY THE NAME OF GONDOU.

AGHHHHHH!

AND FINALLY,

JOE'S COME BACK!

IT'S JOE!

I HEARD THE CHEERS OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD FOLKS SUPPORTING ME...

HURRY UP AND GET BACK ON THE RING!

DON'T GIVE UP THE FIGHT, CHAMP!
THAT'S RIGHT!
DON'T YOU EVER FORGET WE'LL ALWAYS BE ROOTIN' FOR YOU!

NOT AGAIN...
JOE...

HOW FAR DO YOU HAVE TO FALL BEFORE YOU'RE SATISFIED?
HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN TO KEEP THIS UP?

I'M... FINALLY READY TO GET BACK ON THE RING.
I'VE FALLEN FAR ENOUGH.

W-WHAT ...?

THIS FAR.

IS THAT TRUE, JOE!?

IS..

OWW OWW OW...

UGH...

ガンガンガンガン

ARE YOU ALRIGHT!?

HUH?

HE SAID IT'S TIME FOR A COMEBACK!

?

HE SAID HE'S DONE BEING DEPRESSED.

JOE... HE... HE...

BUT I AIN'T HALLUCI-NATING.

OH, I'M STILL TIRED.

HE'S NOT JUST HALLUCINATING FROM EXHAUSTION AGAIN LIKE EARLIER?

REALLY!?

WHA..

DO THESE EYES LOOK LIKE THEY'RE HALLUCI-NATING?

TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT MY EYES, NISHI.

IT'S A SHAME FOR WOLF,

THAT WOLF'S EYES WERE ALREADY ROTTING AWAY BUT MINE WERE STILL ALIVE...

HAHA... GONDOU, THE GANGSTER I FOUGHT, SAID TO ME...

'CAUSE I'M YABUKI JOE, Y'HEAR!?

OF TURNING INTO ANOTHER WOLF.

BUT I HAVE NO INTENTION,

ALRIGHT, NISHI!

YOU SAID YOU HAD PLENTY OF CONFIDENCE SO LET ME SEE WHAT YOU'VE GOT!

J-JOE...

LET ME SHOW YOU REPORTERS CONCRETE PROOF,

THAT YABUKI JOE'S STILL ALIVE AND WELL!

...

C'MON, NISHI! YOU GONNA SPAR ME OR NOT!?

IT'S FINE!

YOU'VE GOT TO WARM UP-

H-HOLD ON A MINUTE! YOUR BODY'S STILL TOO STIFF.

RING THE BELL, OLD MAN.

I WON'T HOLD BACK, YOU KNOW.

ALRIGHT THEN.

YOU SAID IT!
ARE WE IN FOR A TREAT OR WHAT?
BOY,

G-GOT IT...
RING THE BELL THEN, OLD MAN.

READY WHEN YOU ARE.
IS THE MAMMOTH READY?

COME AT ME!
DON'T JUST STAND THERE!

WHOA
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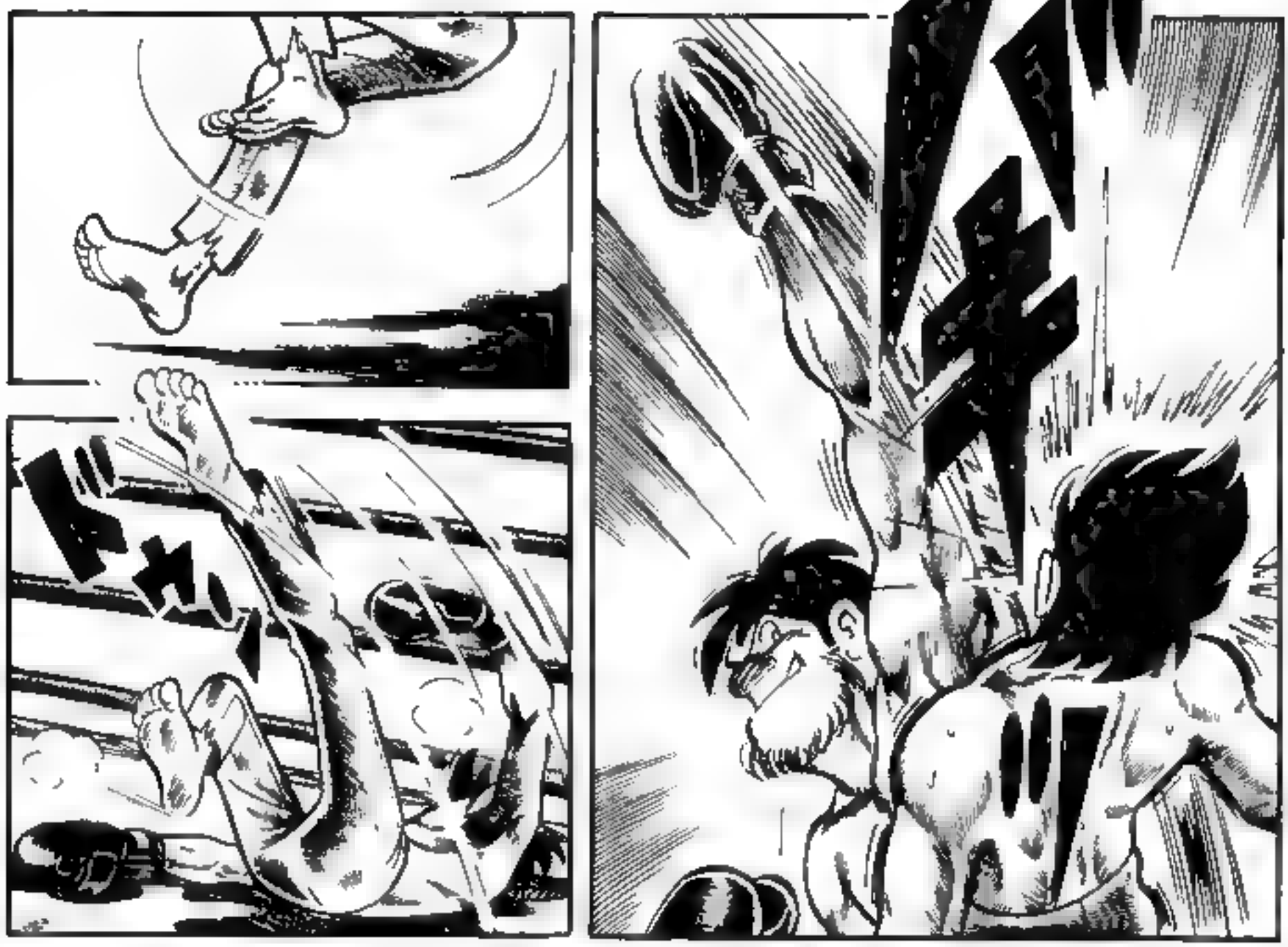
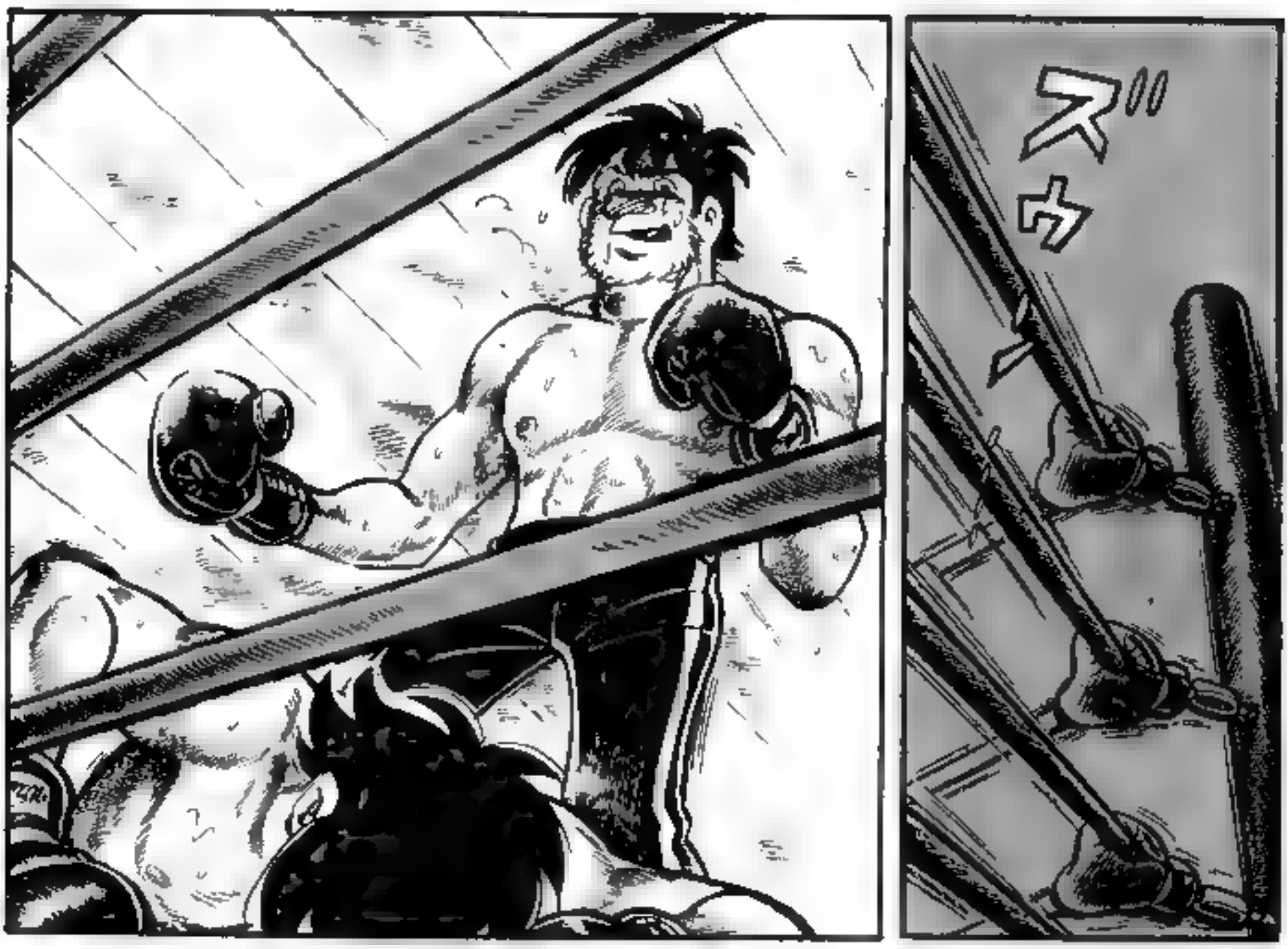
HEH



WHEW...
AHHH!
AHHH!
YOU REALLY AREN'T THE OLD NISHI WHO USED TO SNEAK OUT FOR A BOWL OF-
YOU'VE CERTAINLY GOT ENOUGH STRENGTH TO PULL 2-KOS IN A ROW.
OH, I SEE NOW..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N-NISHI, STOP!
STOP THIS FIGHT AT ONCE!
HE'S BEING COMPLETELY MANHANDLED!
W-WHAT'S GOING ON?

WHY WON'T YOU TRY TO PUNCH ME AT ALL!?
WHAT'S WITH THOSE DEAD ARMS OF YOURS!?
WHAT'S WRONG, JOE!?

NOT JUST YET...

HEH.

DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT ME. JUST KEEP THE PUNCHES COMING...

JOE!

I'D RATHER GO HIT THE SANDBAG.

HMPH!

NO, WAIT!

THAT'S RIDICULOUS!

HOW THE HELL ARE WE SPARRING IF YOU WON'T EVEN BOTHER TO ATTACK!?

I'M BEGGING YOU.

PLEASE...

I JUST WANT TO KNOCK AWAY ALL THESE NEGATIVE EMOTIONS AND REGRETS ABOUT RIKIISHI AND WOLF THAT'VE BEEN TORTURING MY MIND.

I JUST...

I WANT TO START AGAIN WITH A CLEAN SLATE!

I'M BEGGING YOU, PLEASE KEEP HITTIN' ME!

SO PLEASE HIT ME!

...

...

ALRIGHT THEN.

IS THE REAL THING.

LOOKS LIKE YOUR INTENT ON A COMEBACK,

SO DON'T BLAME ME IF YOU GET HURT REAL BAD!

I REALLY WON'T HOLD BACK, YOU HEAR?

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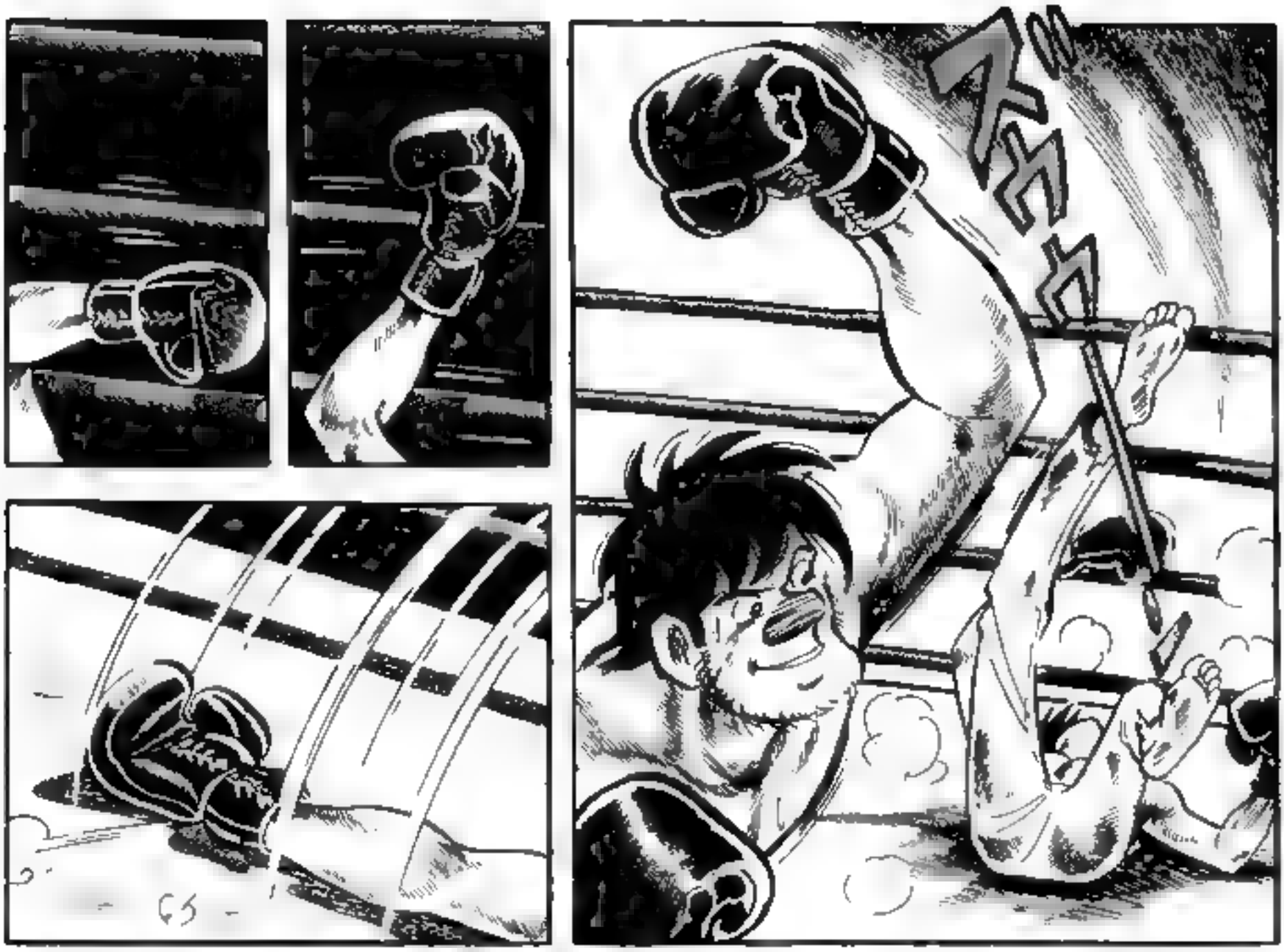
AGHH!

ACK!
AHH!

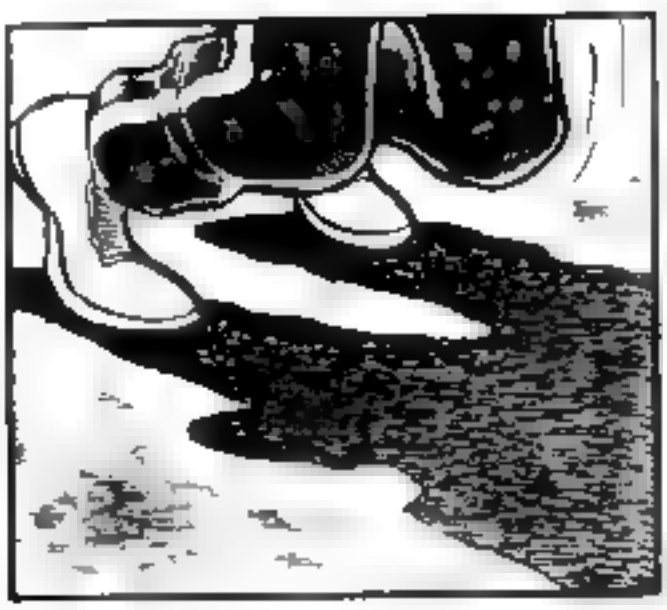

PANT
PANT
PANT
YEAH..
JOE...?

WHEW.
COME ON AND ATTACK ME ALREADY.
THEN...
I FINALLY FEEL A LIL' REFRESHED!
AND COME AT ME, JOE!
STAND UP,
YEAH, YEAH, NO NEED TO YELL, I'M ALREADY PLANNING ON IT.

UGH!

OOF...

UGH...



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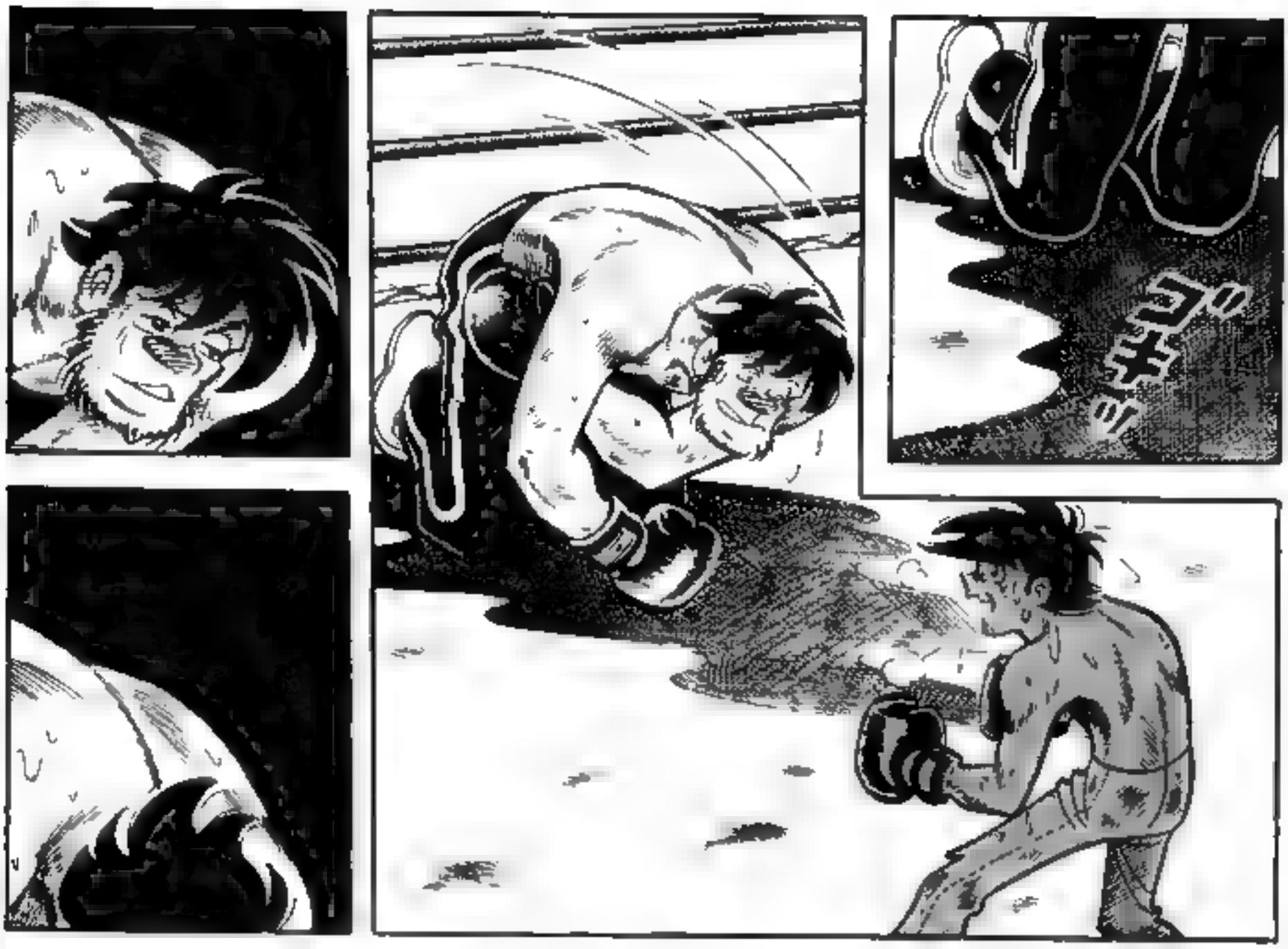
UGH..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N-
NISHI!
NISHI,
ARE YOU
ALRIGHT!?
K"
ス

YOU ALRIGHT?

I HOPE I DIDN'T HURT YOU BADLY WITH YOUR NEXT MATCH SO NEAR.

IS NOTHING...

THIS MUCH...

MY... MY BAD, NISHI.

...IS WHAT I'D LIKE TO SAY BUT,

D-DID YOU SEE THAT, REPORTERS!?

. . . .

. . . .

YOUR PUNCHES ARE LITERALLY BREATH-TAKING AS ALWAYS.

I REALLY HAVE TO HAND IT TO YOU, JOE.

HEY, OLD MAN. SCREAMING YOUR LUNGS OUT HERE IN THIS RUN-DOWN GYM IN AN EQUALLY RUN-DOWN NEIGHBOURHOOD AIN'T GONNA GET THE WORD OUT AT ALL.

WE NEED TO PROVE THAT I'M BACK IN FRONT OF A LARGE CROWD, IF YOU GET WHAT I'M SAYIN'!

THE BRAWLIN' BEAST WILL BE UP ON THE RING AGAIN!

JOE'S BACK FROM THE GRAVE!

G-GOT IT!

JUST LEAVE IT TO ME!

THE SOONER THE BETTER!

THAT'S RIGHT! WHY DON'T YOU HAVE JOE FIGHT NISHI IN FRONT OF A CROWD? WITH THAT HUGE WEIGHT DIFFERENCE, IT'LL BE ENOUGH PROOF FOR ANYBODY THAT THE OLD JOE'S BACK!

DOESN'T MATTER WHEN AND WHERE! I COULD EVEN FIGHT EVERY SINGLE DAY IF I HAVE TO!

LET'S SEND A MESSAGE OUT TO ALL THE GYMS ASKING FOR A FIGHT WITH ANYBODY WHO'S GOT ENOUGH BALLS TO FIGHT ME!

IT'S LIKE THEY SAY!

THE MOON'LL BE A LOVELY SIGHT TO SEE WHILE I RUN!

ALL THE BETTER THEN!

I GOTTA START BRUSHING UP ON MY ROADWORK!

IF THAT'S SETTLED, THEN I CAN'T JUST STAND AROUND HERE.

BUT IT'S ALREADY NIGHT, JOE!

HOW'S THIS FOR THE HEADLINES: "THE SLEEPING LION AWAKENS!"

OR MAYBE EVEN "BRAWLER JOE ONCE AGAIN AIMS FOR A NEW TOMORROW!"

Y- YEAH!

MAN, WHAT A SCOOP!

IT MIGHT BE A LITTLE TOO SOON FOR CELEBRATIONS.

OLD MAN...

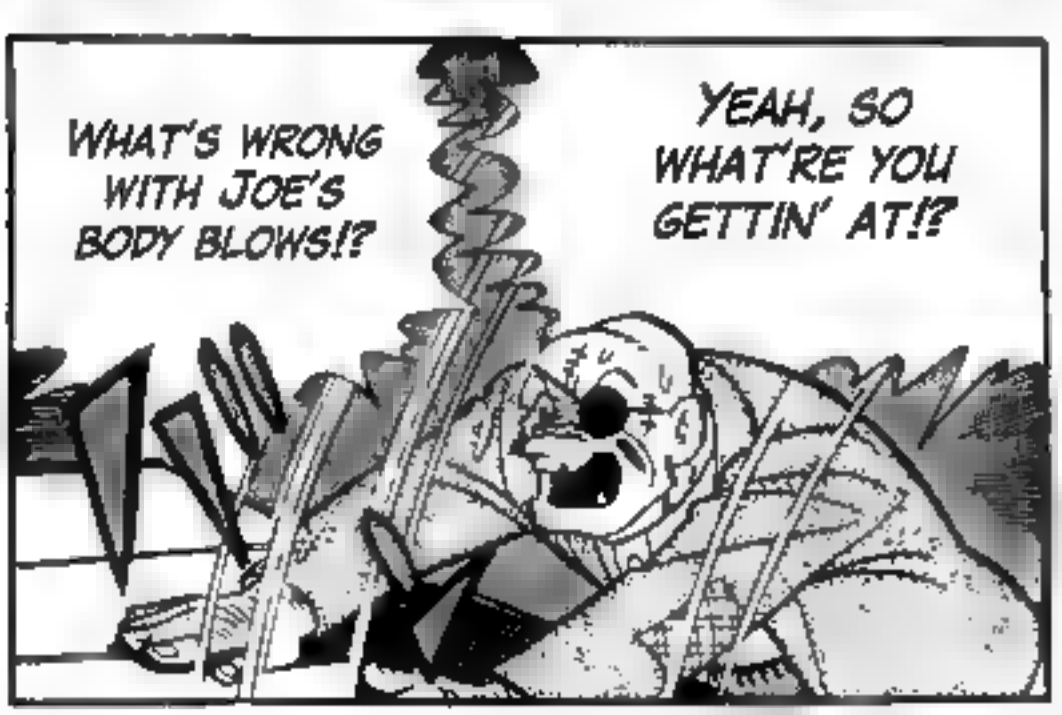
YOU'VE REALLY REVIVED AT LAST!

JOE...

BUT DURING THE SPAR, HE ONLY AIMED FOR BODY BLOWS.
HIS FISTS ARE STILL ALIVE, NO DOUBT ABOUT THAT...
HUH?

ACCORDING TO THE PAPERS, HE TOOK DOWN THAT GANGSTER WITH BLOWS TO ONLY HIS STOMACH...

SO WHAT ABOUT IT?
BODY BLOWS?
IT WASN'T JUST WHEN HE WAS FIGHTING ME EITHER.


WHAT'S WRONG WITH JOE'S BODY BLOWS!?
YEAH, SO WHAT'RE YOU GETTIN' AT!?

ONLY.
YEAH.
WAIT... DID YOU SAY ONLY?

I THINK JOE MIGHT BE AFRAID OF AIMING FOR THE HEAD.

YEAH..

DON'T TELL ME...

ONLY..

BODY BLOWS,

I THINK JOE'S DEVELOPED A SUBCONSCIOUS FEAR OF ATTACKING UP HIGH.

AFTER ALL, THE PAPERS SAID IT WAS THE BLOW TO RIKIISHI'S TEMPLE THAT ENDED UP DOING HIM IN.

.....

JOE... IF THIS IS TRUE...

IT COULD MEAN YOUR DOWNFALL AS A BOXER!

IT'S GOTTA BE JUST A COINCIDENCE...

IT'S...

NO, THAT CAN'T BE..

JUST DON'T EVER MENTION IT, GOT IT!?

YEAH, I KNOW.

IF ANYONE ELSE WERE TO HEAR ABOUT THIS, THEN JOE'S CAREER IS...

NISHI, DON'T YOU DARE MENTION THIS TO ANYBODY ELSE!

〔第九巻　おわり〕

CLEANING: HAPPYSCANS

TRANLATIONS: HOX

TYPESETTING: ARLES

あなたは、この本を読んで、どんな感想をおもちになりましたか。

編集部では、この本についての読者のみなさまのご意見をおまちしています。

このつぎには、どんな作家のどんな漫画を読みたいと、お考えですか。「KCデラックス」にしてほしいと思う作品がありましたら、「読後の感想」とあわせて、左記あてに、どしどしお知らせください。

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「餓鬼」①・②「蛍三七子」「モサ」、ちばてつやが青春のシーンを綴った、珠玉の傑作中短篇集。

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遠い昔……そこに楽園があった。水木しげるがのんのんばあとの、愉快な思い出を描く。NHK放映。

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①〜⑤
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桑田二郎が伝説に秘められた釈迦の真意を、絶対不変の宇宙法則〝いのちの真理〟に基づいて描く。

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全7集

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正義の味方〝鉄腕アトム〟が、10万馬力のパワーで、地球の平和を乱す悪者たちをやっつける！

仰げば尊し！

全3集

所十三

超カゲキ教師・日向大に率いられた、オチコボレ野球部がマジで〝甲子園〟を目指す！

スーパーくいしん坊

全3集

作・牛次郎
画・ビッグ錠

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釣りキチ三平

釣犬ハチ公編
釣りキチ同盟編

矢口高雄

〝釣りキチ三平〟のKCSP未収録作品集。これを読まなきゃ〝釣りキチ〟を読破したとは言えないゾ。

おがみ松吾郎

全9集

伊藤実

暴力が大嫌いな小梅さんと、力でしか優しさを現わせない松吾郎のハラハラ・ドキドキストーリー。

ブレイクショット

全9集

前川たけし

目指せ！　キング・オブ・ハスラー。高校生ハスラー・織田信介が自慢のジャンプショットで大活躍。